

# Oral Health in Colorado

*Progress and Opportunities*



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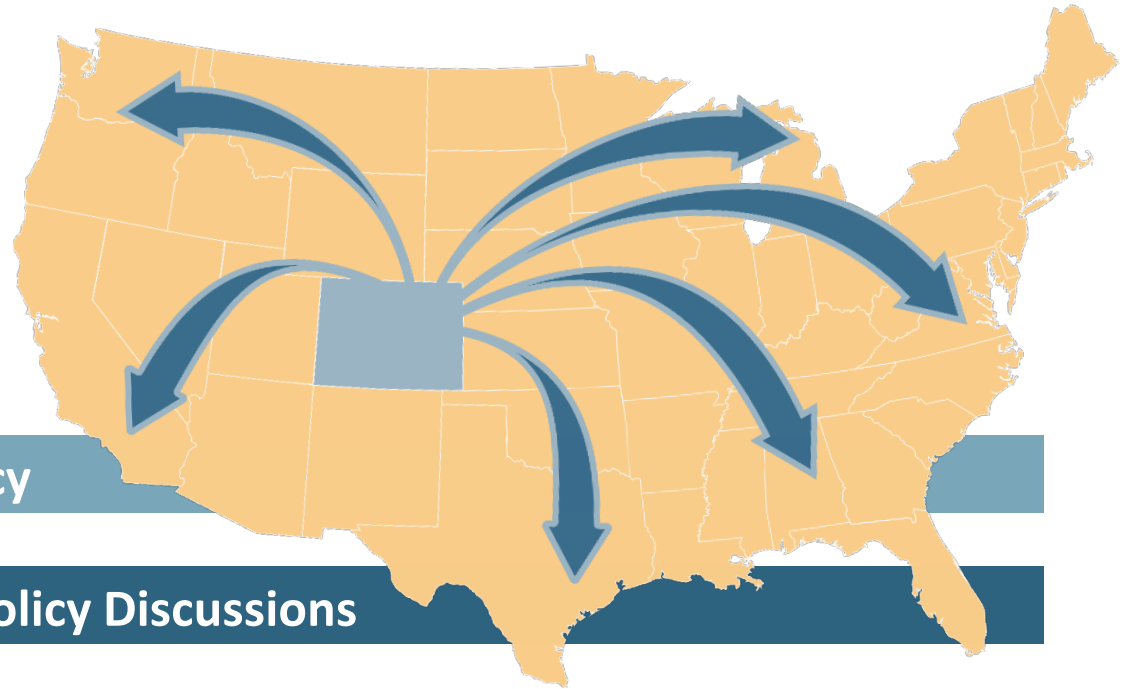
Prepared for the Delta Dental of Colorado  
Foundation

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About Us:



# COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE



Inform State and National Policy

Contribute to Current Health Policy Discussions

Support Efforts to Improve Health



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# Findings

- Rates of insurance coverage – medical and dental – are at an all-time high.
- More Colorado children are seeing dental providers – including low-income children and children who speak Spanish.
- Prevention efforts are growing, but impacts on tooth decay are uncertain.
- Oral health workforce is expanding to serve under-resourced Coloradans.
- Policy changes have brought progress in promoting oral health in Colorado, but the current political climate threatens gains.

# Scan Roadmap

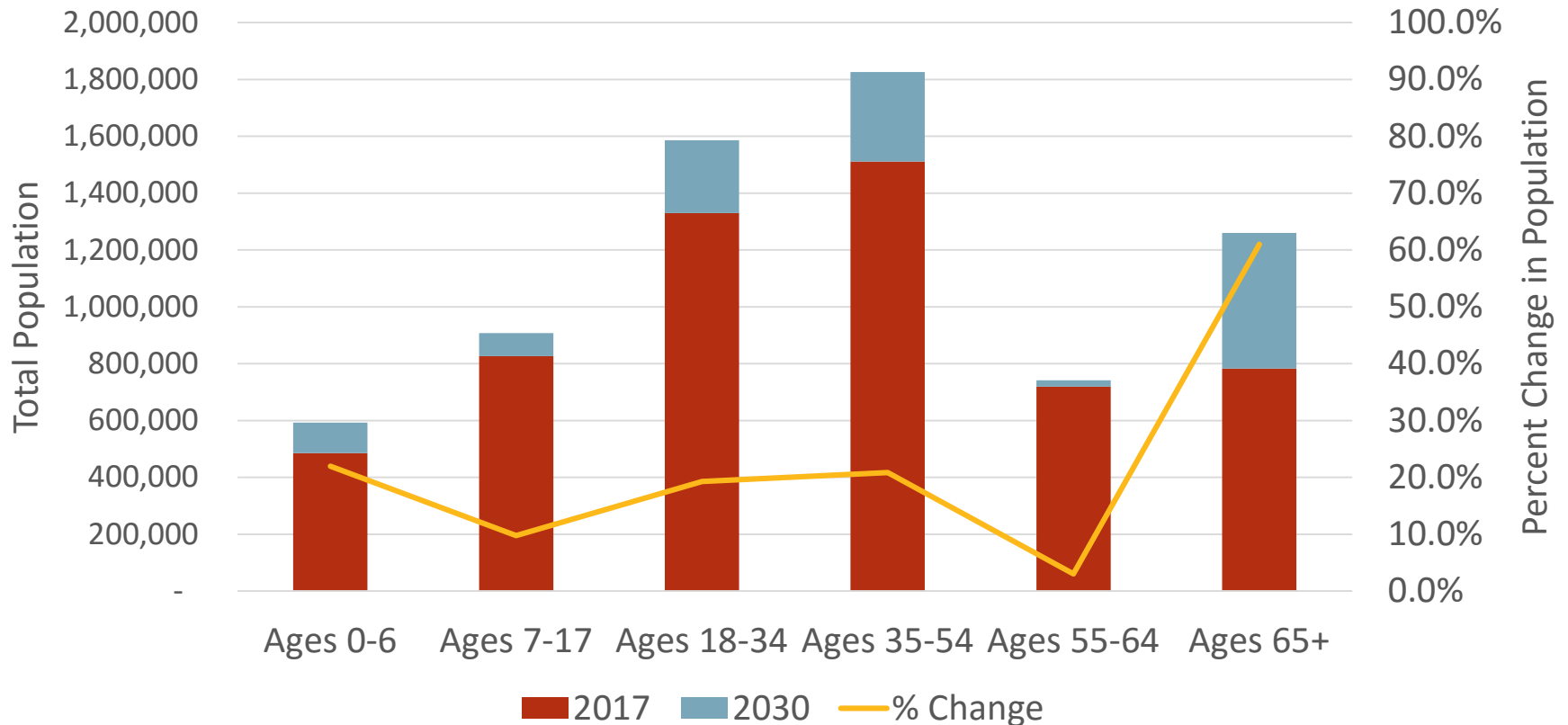
- Colorado's Population
- Insurance Coverage: Why It Matters for Oral Health
- Systems to Support Oral Health
  - Prevention and Public Health
  - Workforce
- Oral Health Across the Lifespan
  - Children
  - Adults
  - Seniors





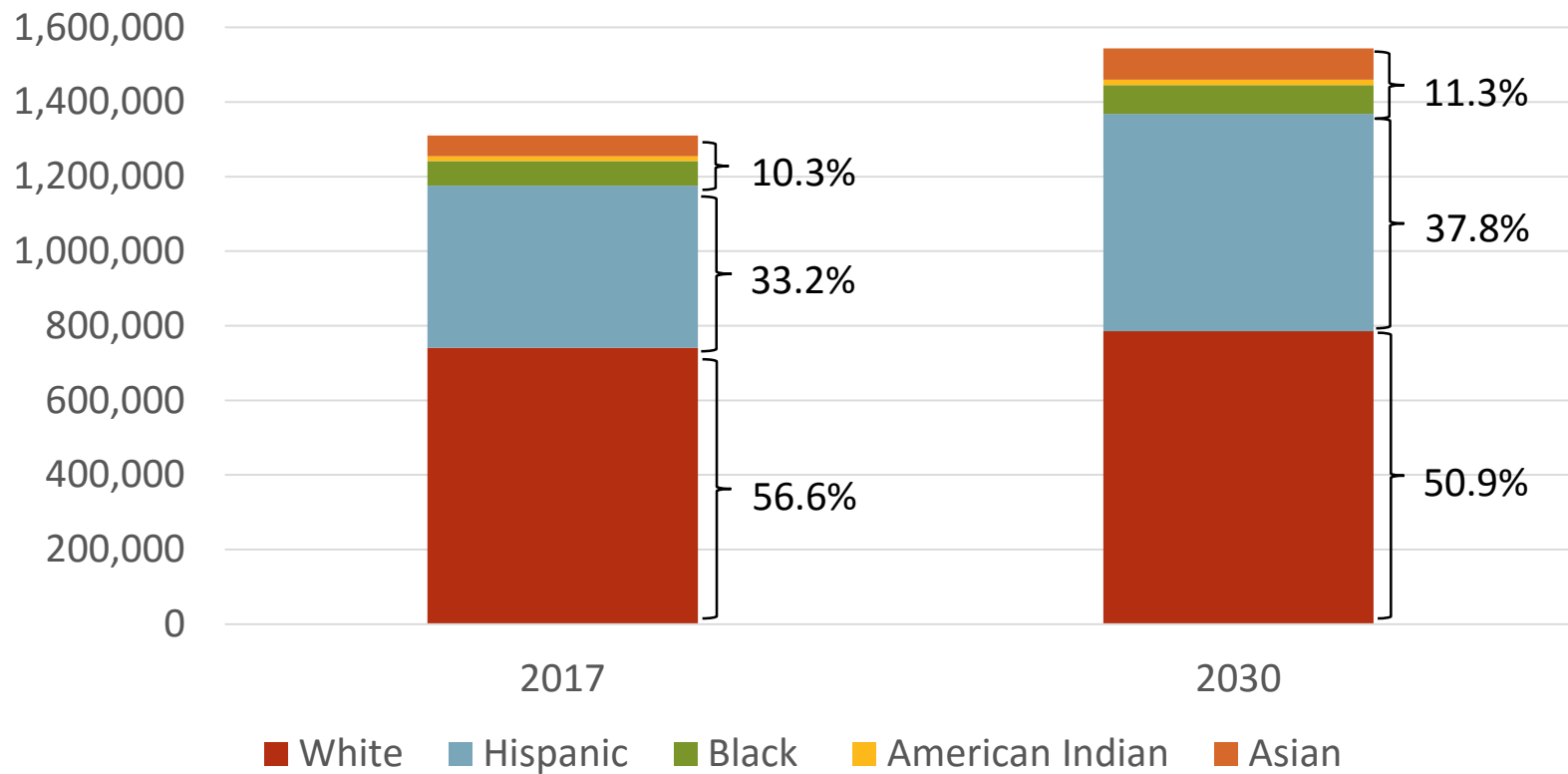
# Colorado's Population

# The Data: Children Ages 0-6 and Older Adults 65+ Have Highest Projected Increases by 2030



Colorado Demography Office, Coloradans all ages, 2017-2030

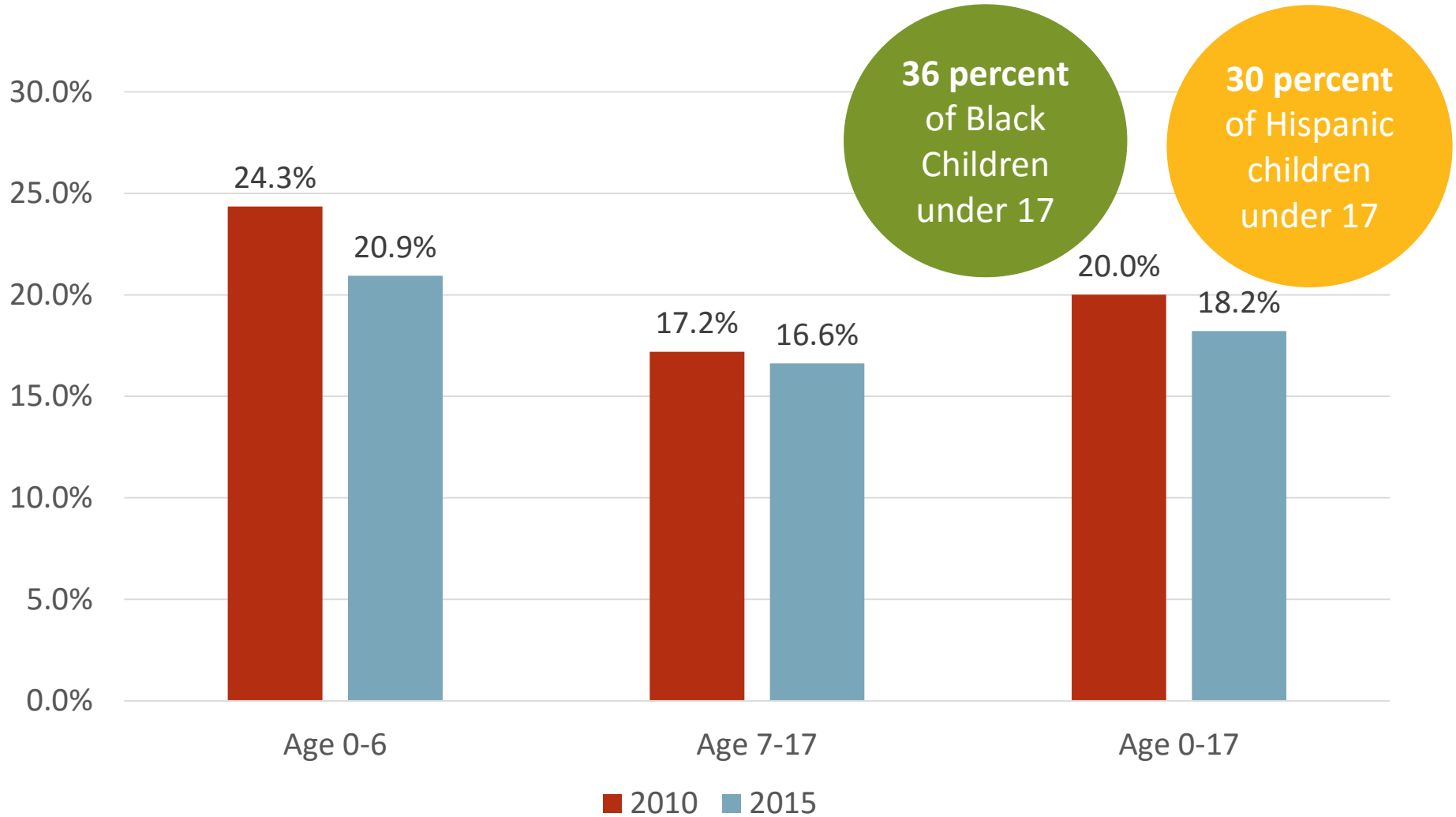
# The Data: The Number of Hispanic Children Will Grow



Colorado Demography Office, Coloradans Ages 0-17, by Race and Ethnicity, 2017-2030



# The Data: One of Five Children Living in Poverty



Percentage of Colorado Children Living at or Below the Federal Poverty Level, American Community Survey, 2010 and 2015



- A majority (61.3 percent) of Colorado moms are ages 25-34.
- 20.2 percent of Colorado moms experienced 3-5 stressors in the 12 months before delivery.
- Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ covered 45 percent of births in 2014-15.



Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2012-2014  
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing





# **Insurance Coverage: Why it Matters for Oral Health**

# Progress in Coverage

- More Coloradans have medical and dental insurance because of federal and state policy changes.
  - 93.3 percent with medical insurance and 70.6 percent with dental insurance.
- Coloradans with dental insurance more likely to get care.

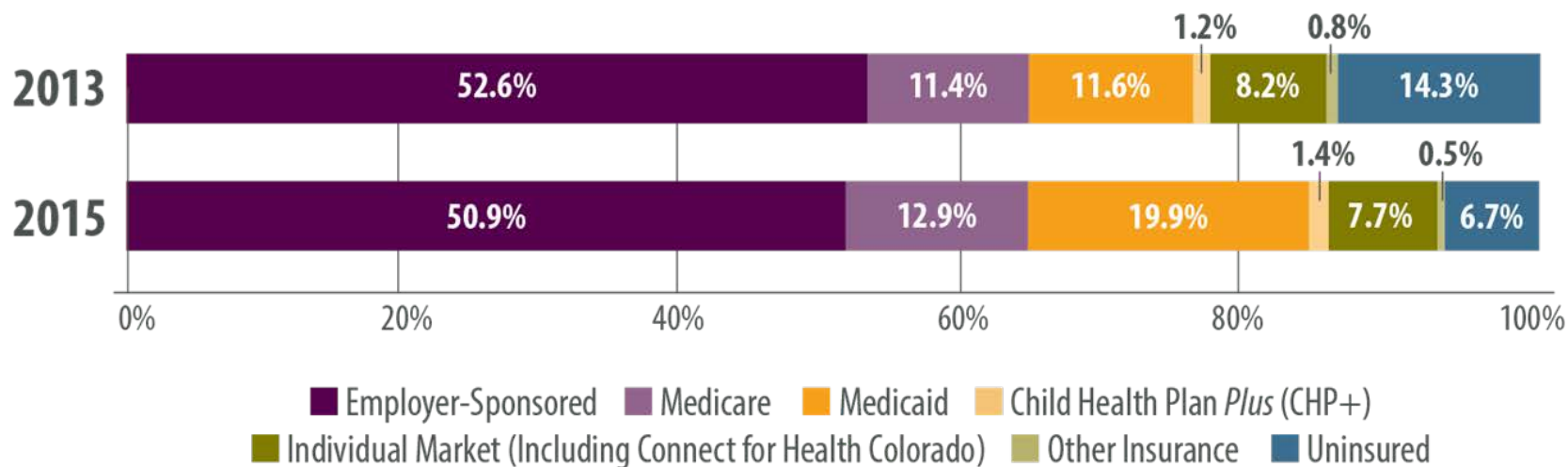


# Colorado Policy Decisions

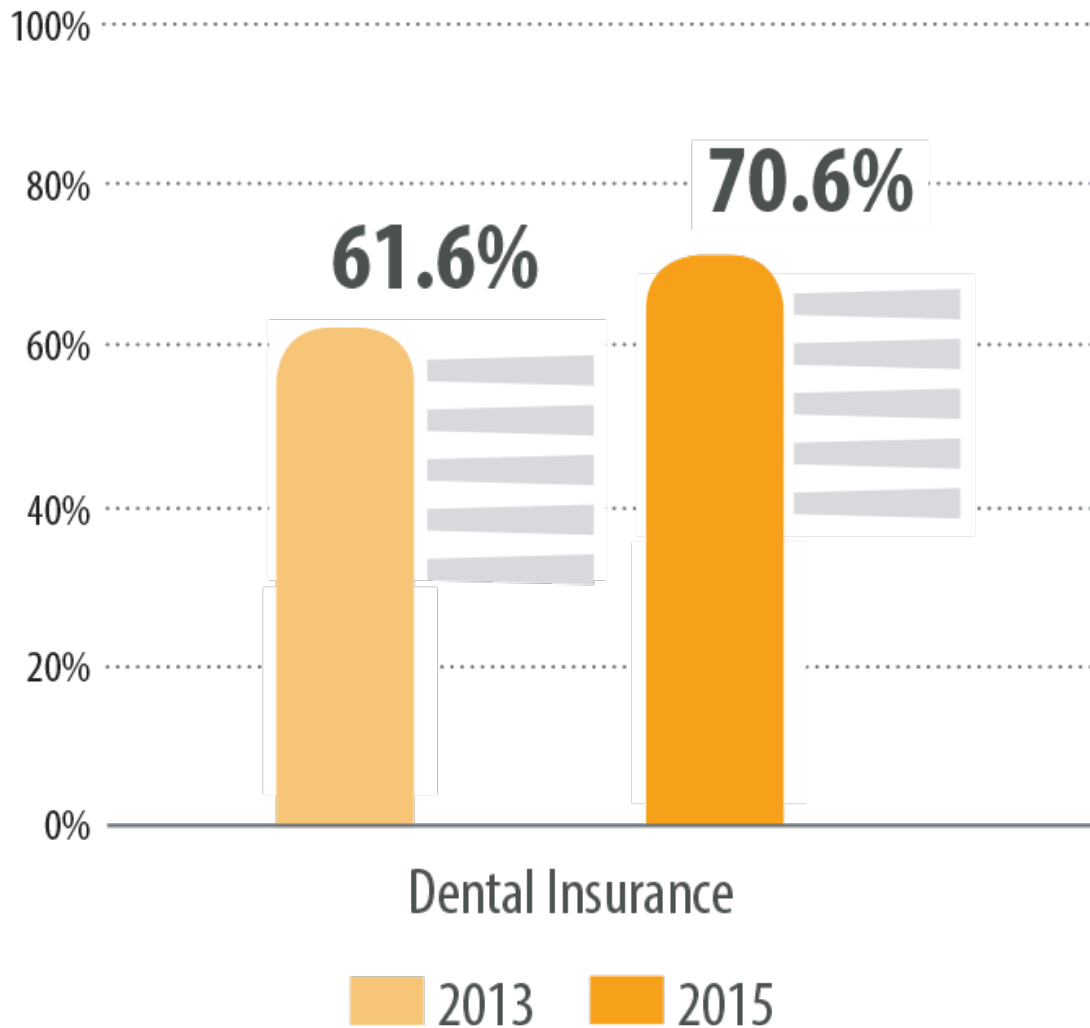


- Removing CHP+ waiting period
- Medicaid expansion to low-income adults
- Dental benefit in Medicaid
- Continuous eligibility for Medicaid and CHP+
- Pediatric dental benefits in private plans

## A Surge in Medicaid and a Drop in Uninsured Colorado Health Insurance Coverage, All Ages, 2013-2015



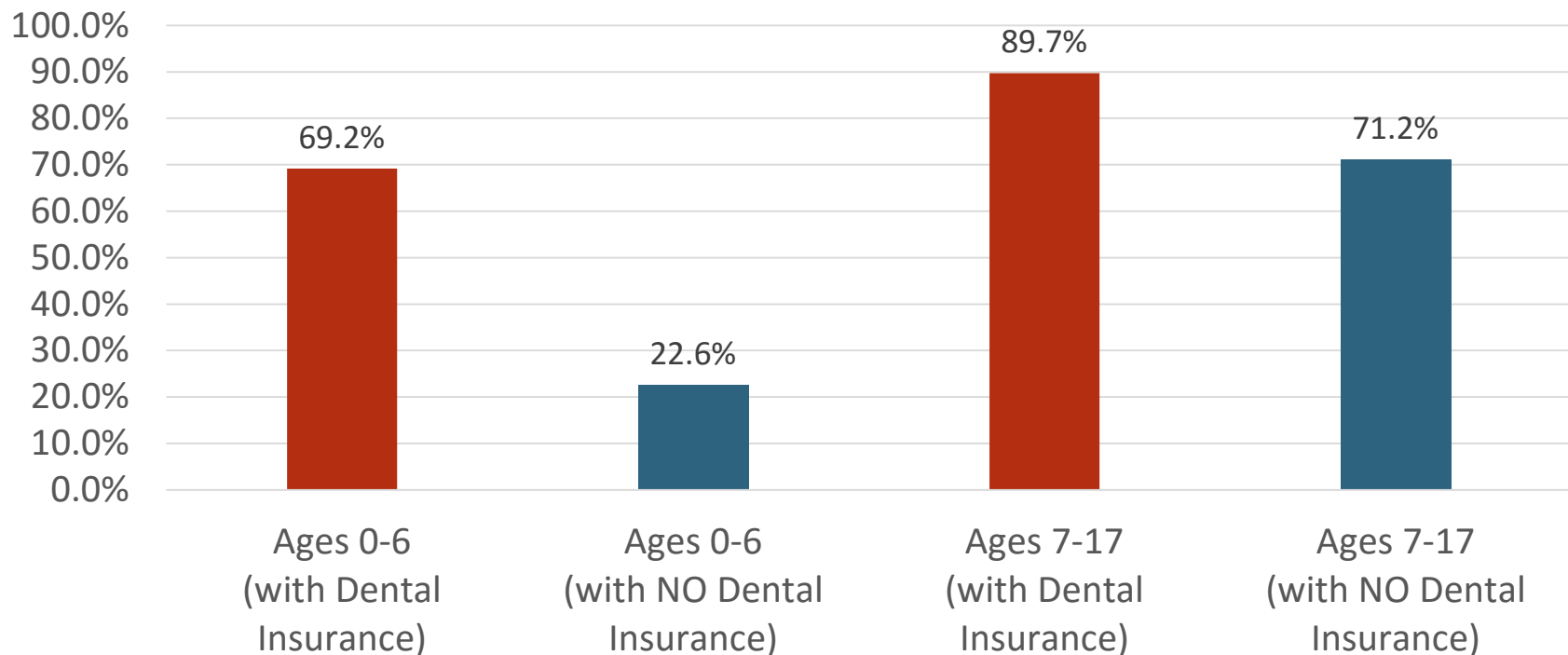
# Colorado Brushing Up on Coverage Dental Insurance, 2013-2015



# Coverage Makes A Difference



# The Data: Children Ages 0-6 With Dental Insurance Three Times As Likely to Get Care

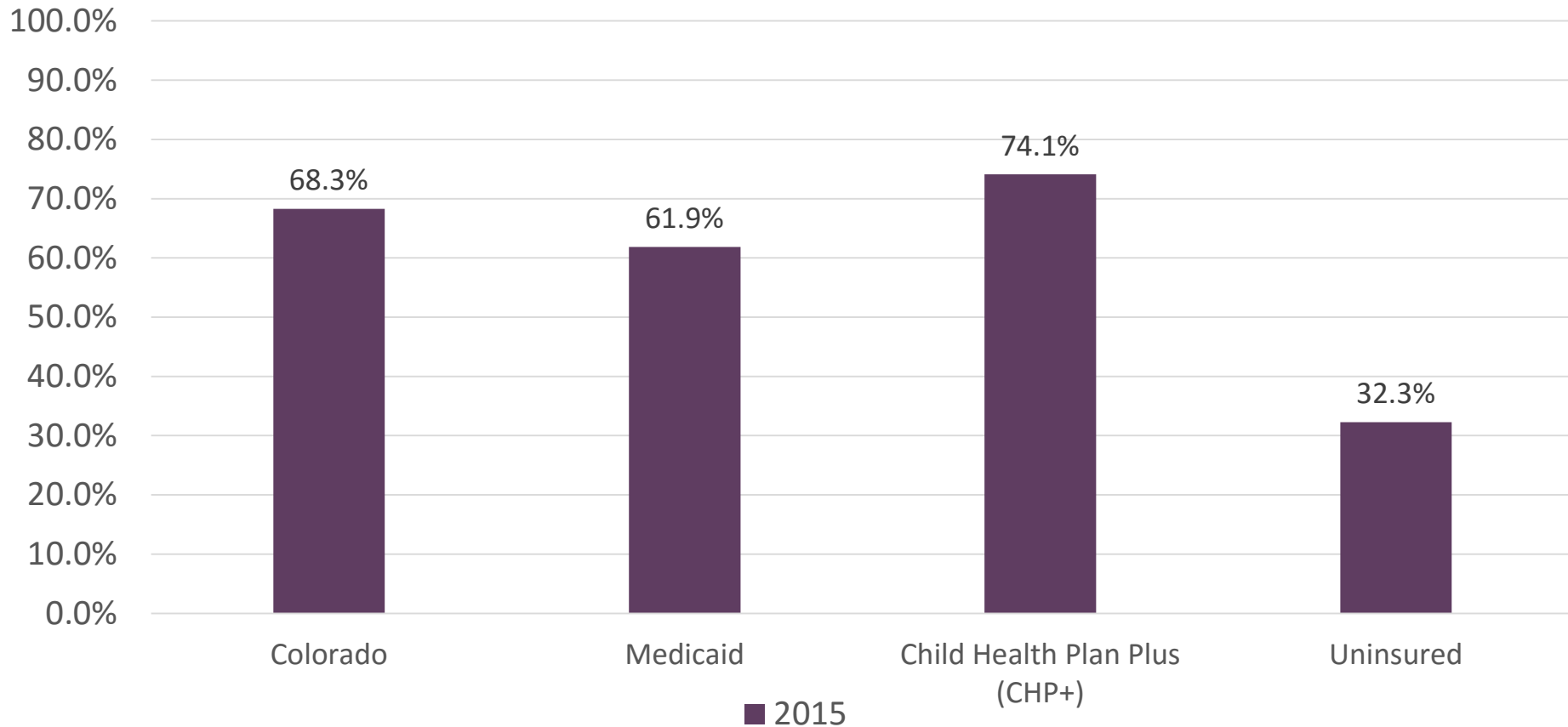


Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, by Age and Dental Insurance Status, Colorado, 2015





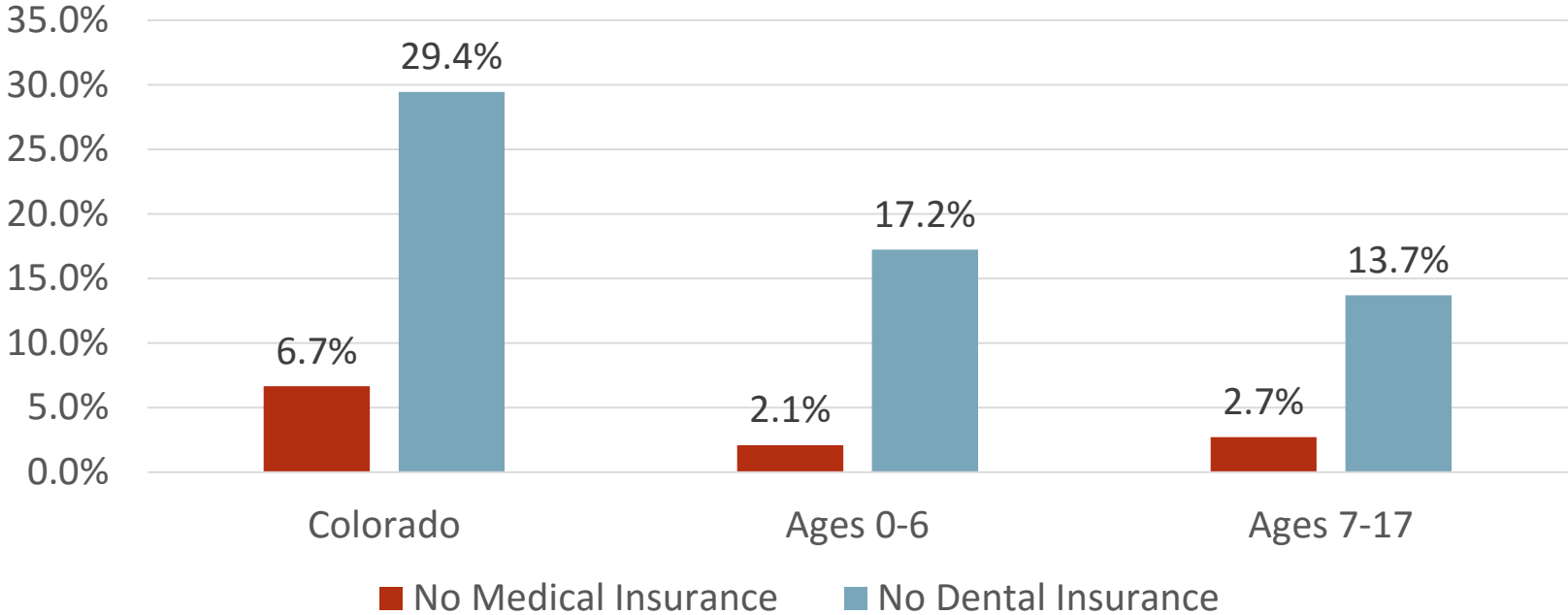
# The Data: Uninsured Least Likely to Get Dental Care



Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, by Medical Insurance Type, Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015



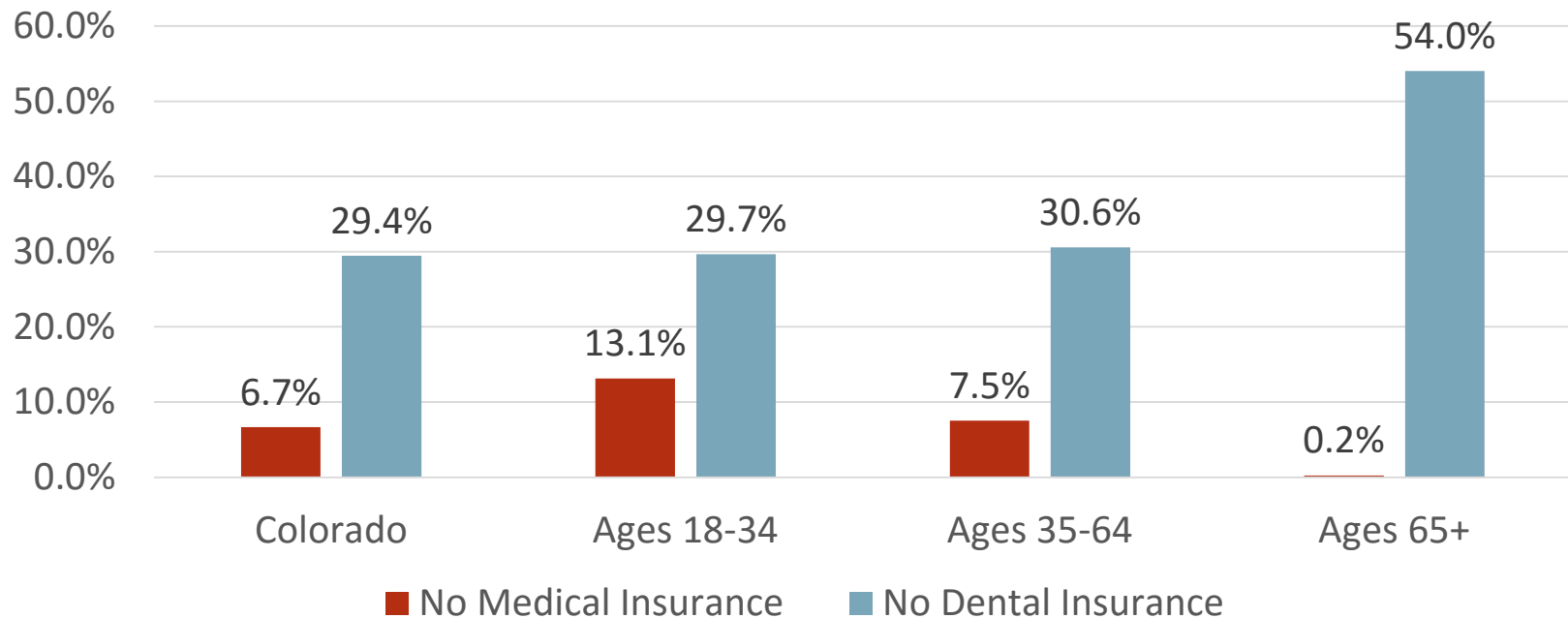
# The Data: Less than Three Percent of Children Are Medically Uninsured



Percent without Medical, Dental Insurance, by Age, Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015



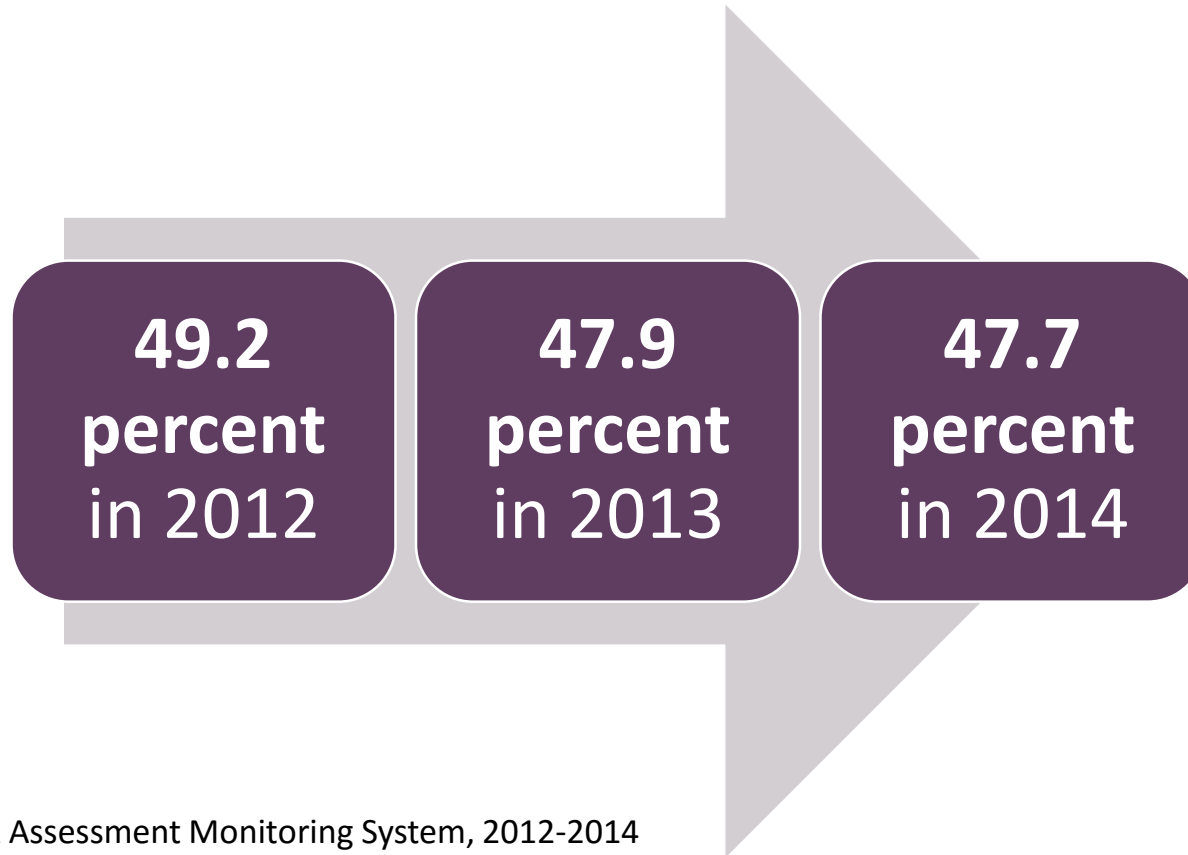
# The Data: More than Half of Colorado Seniors Do Not Have Dental Insurance



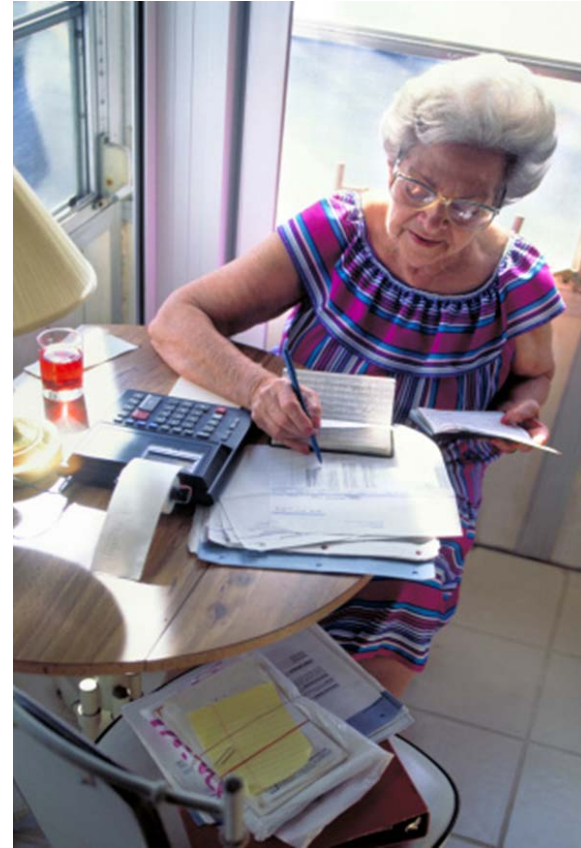
Percent without Medical, Dental Insurance, by Age, Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015



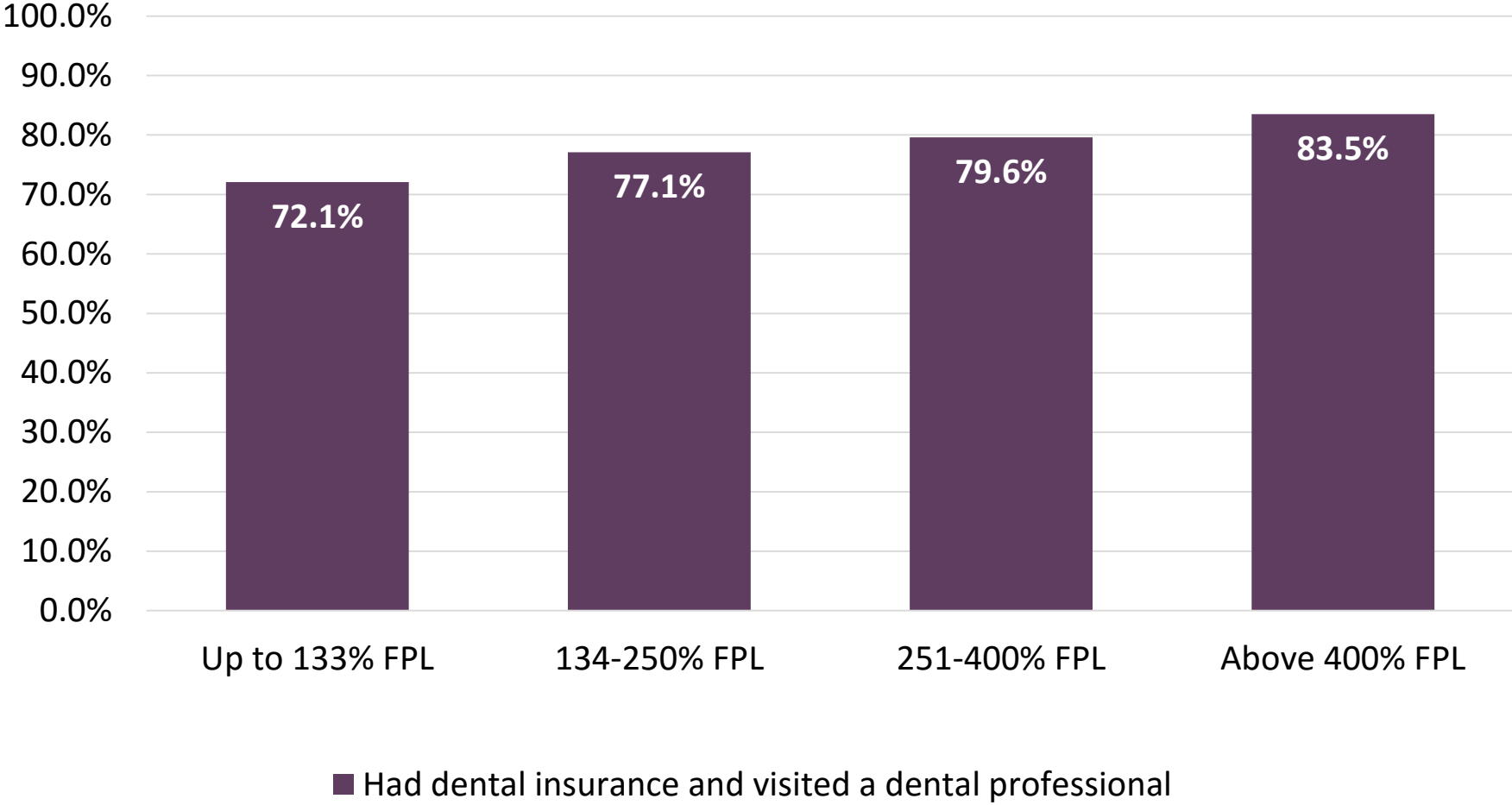
# The Data: Less Than Half of Pregnant Women Had Their Teeth Cleaned During Pregnancy



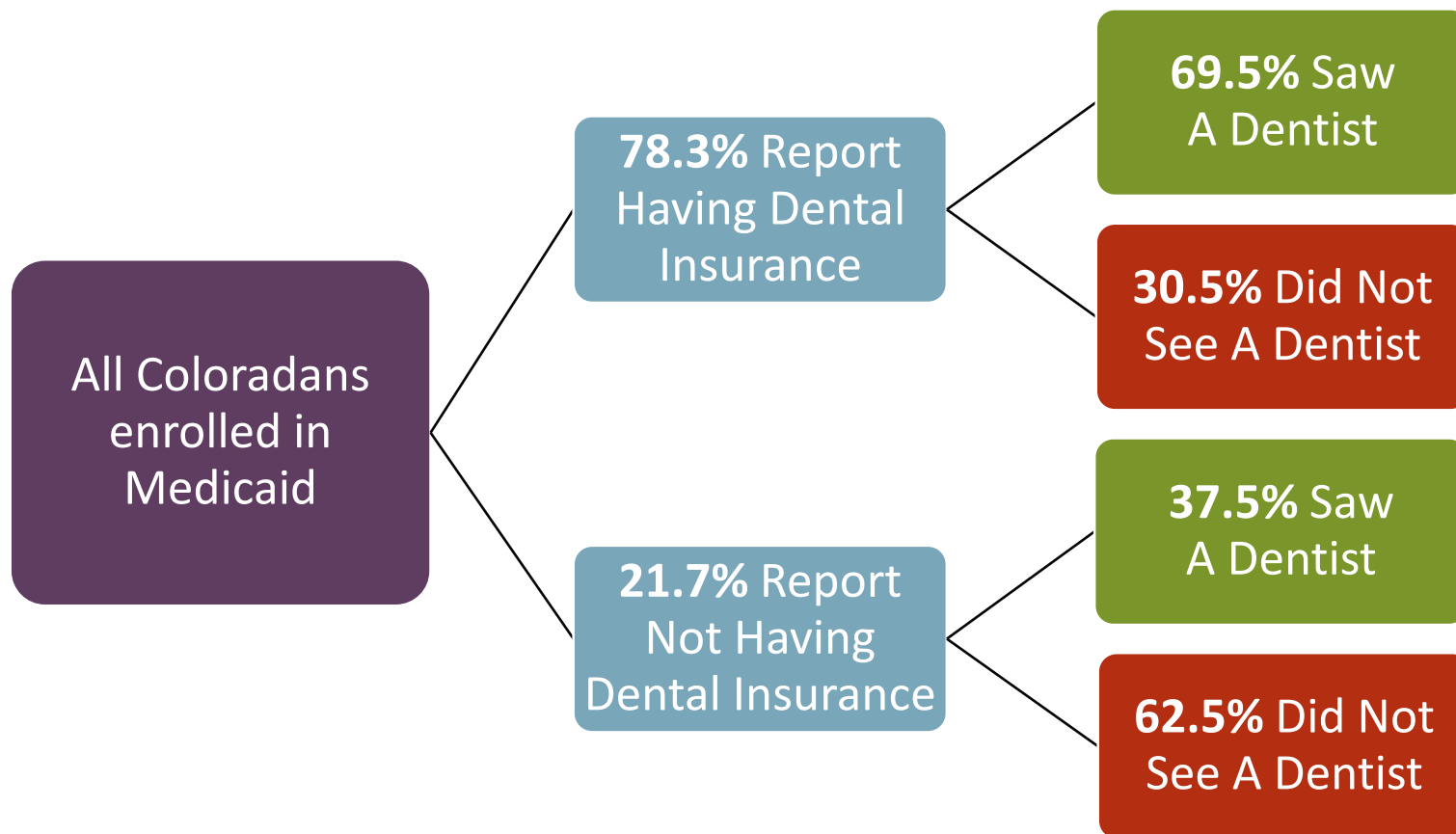
# Opportunity to Serve Coloradans Without Access to Dental Benefits



# The Data: Low-Income Coloradans With Dental Insurance Less Likely to Get Dental Care



# The Data: Medicaid Enrollees Who Report Dental Coverage Nearly Twice As Likely To Get Care



Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015



# Systems to Support Oral Health



# Water Fluoridation



# Water Fluoridation

- Progress
  - More Coloradans have access to optimally fluoridated water.
    - Growth from 72.4 percent to 74.9 percent.
- Opportunities
  - Fluoridation in Colorado faces constant threats – from aging infrastructure to concerns about safety.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



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# The Data: Three of Four Coloradans Have Optimally Fluoridated Water

## Colorado's 2015-2019 Plan for Improving Public Health

Increase the percent of the population served by optimally fluoridated community water systems to **79.6 percent**.

Current:  
**74.9%**



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



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# The Data: More Low Income Children Drinking Tap Water Daily

- **63 percent** of children under age six had tap water daily in 2015, up from **41 percent** in 2014.
  - And fewer drank fruit juice daily, 47 percent down from 66 percent in 2014.

# Oral Health Workforce



# Oral Health Workforce

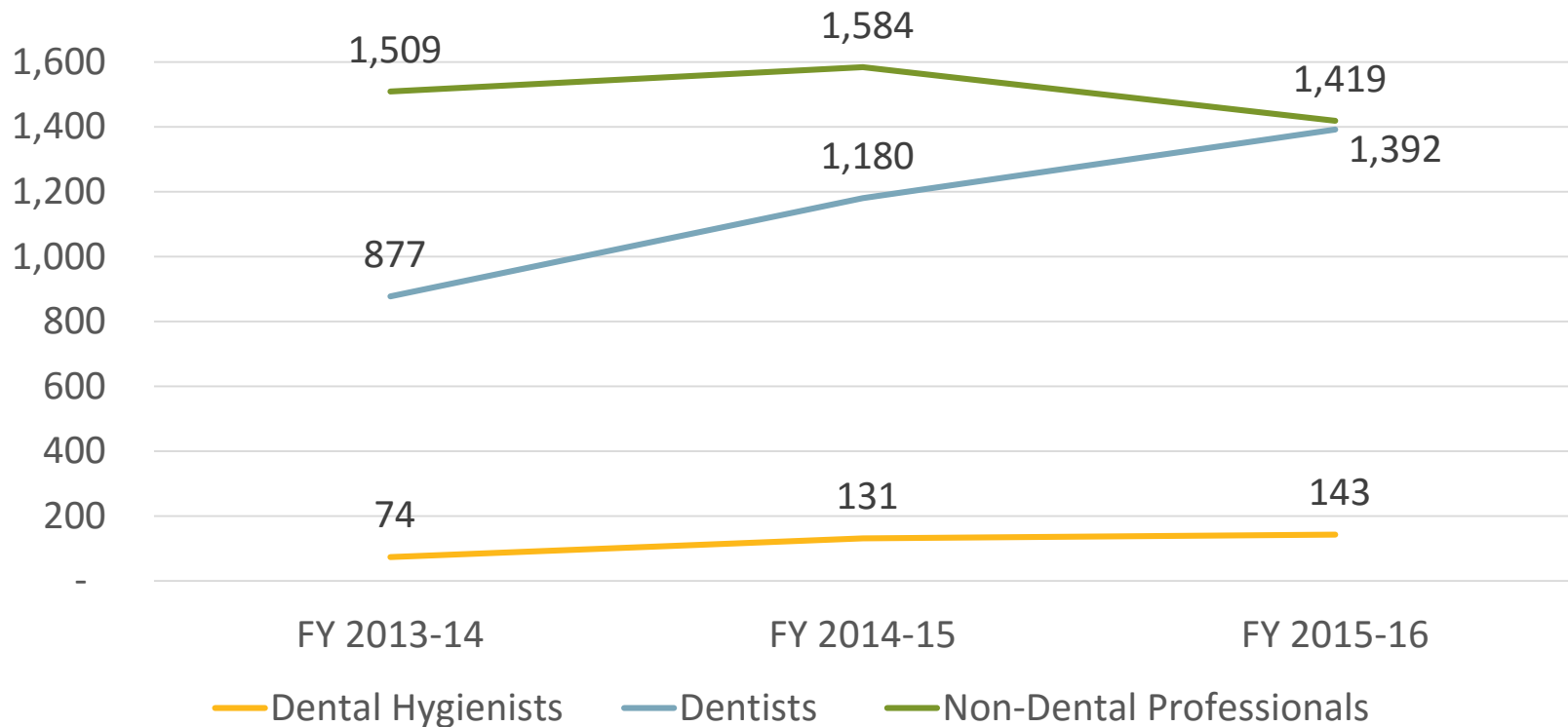
- Progress

- More providers accepting Medicaid.
  - One of two dentists have treated Medicaid enrollees, up from one of three.
- Oral health services available in more locations, including health care providers and school-based health centers.

- Opportunities

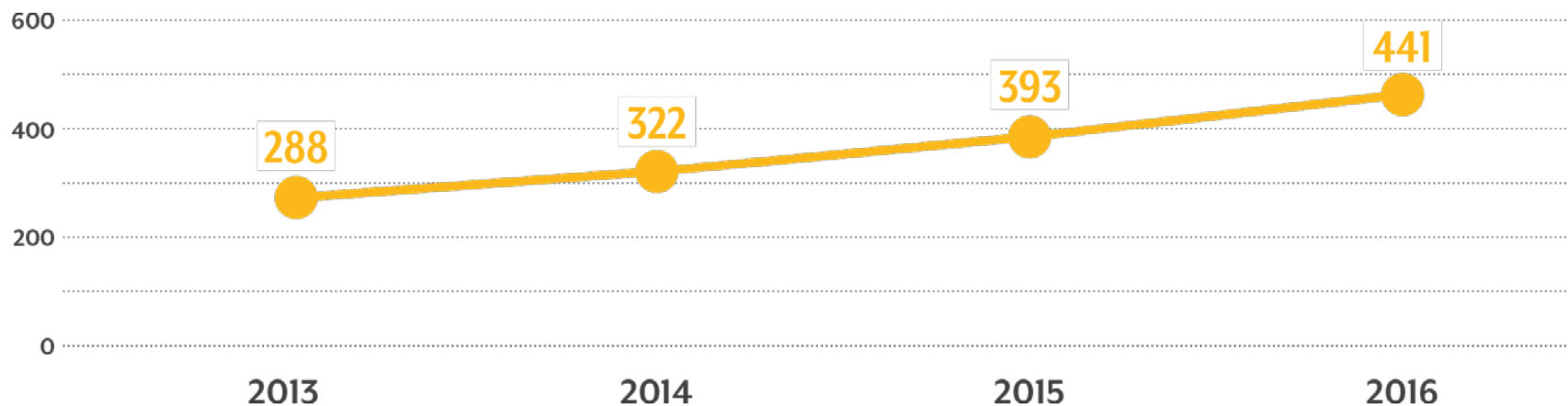
- Access to providers still limited in some communities.
  - Seven counties lack dental services.
- Just over half of medical providers address oral health with their pediatric patients.

# The Data: Dentists Participating in Medicaid Grew By 59 Percent



Health Care Policy and Financing, Dental Utilization Management Reports, Rendering Provider Counts by County

# The Data: Safety Net Dental Providers Increased by 53 Percent in Four Years



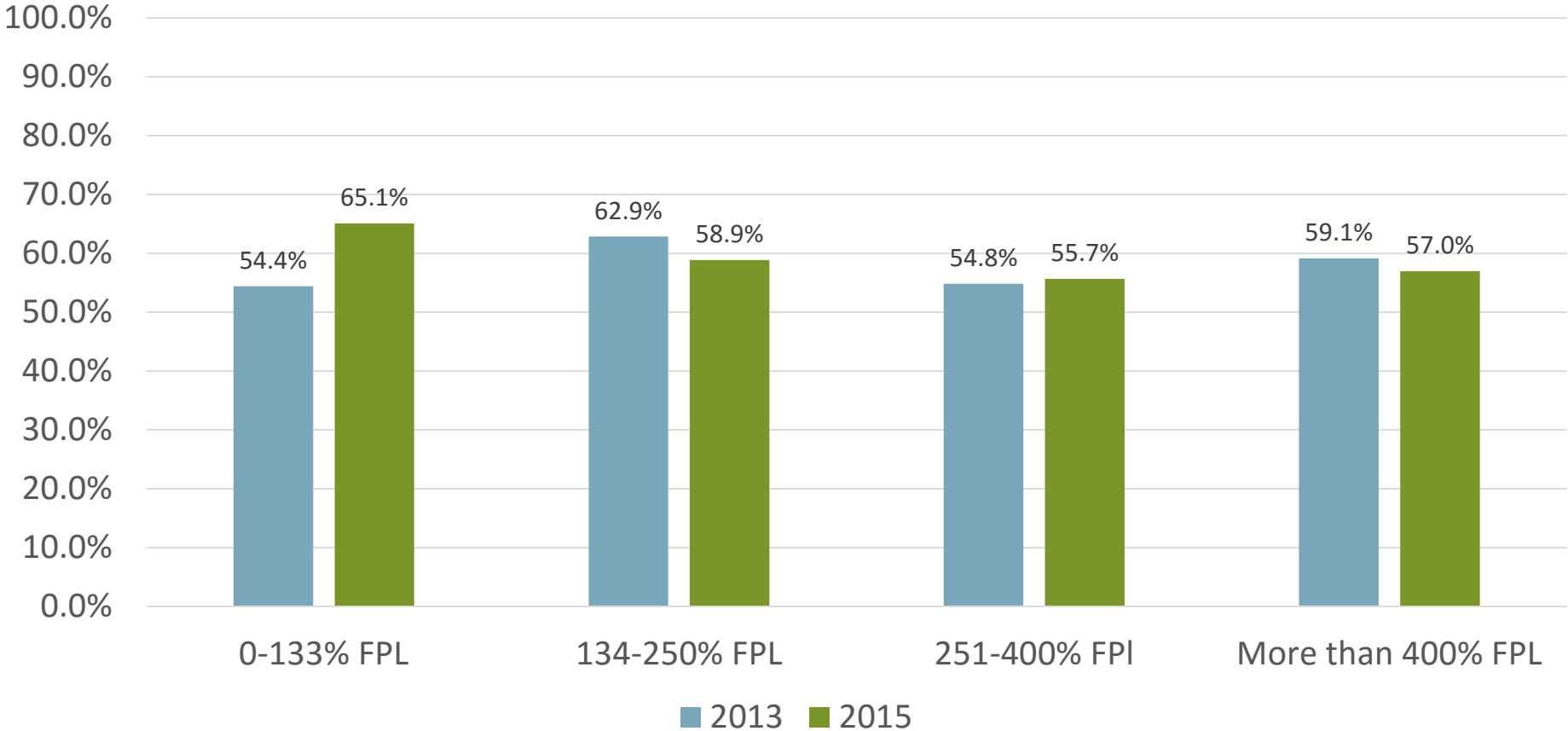
Dental Hygienist FTE doubled to **83 FTE** during this time period.

Numbers represent dental full-time equivalents at Community Health Centers in Colorado. Health Resources & Services Administration, Health Center Data, Colorado Program Grantee 2013-2015; 2016 data from personal communication with the Colorado Community Health Network



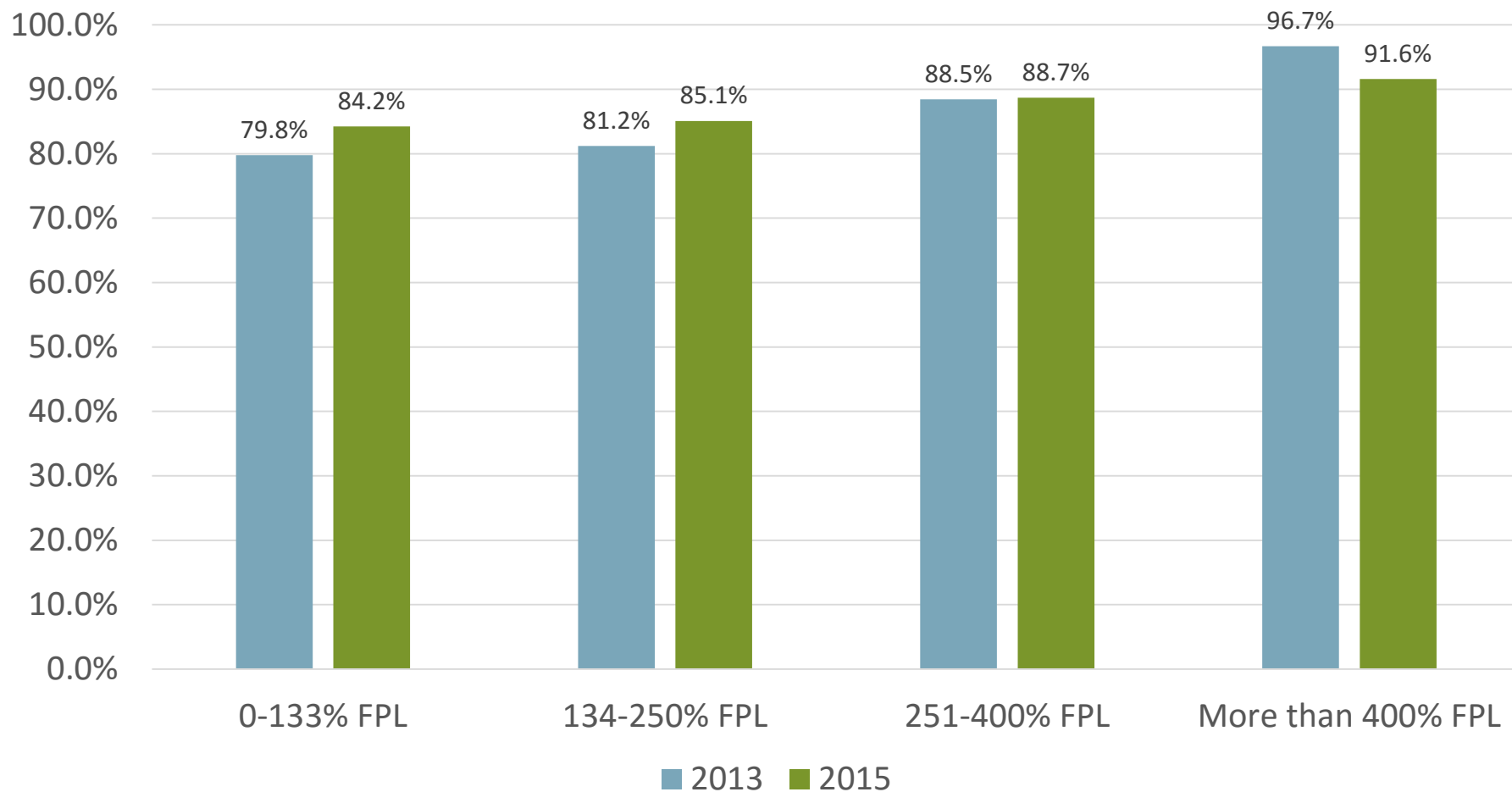


# The Data: Children Ages 0-6 with Lowest Incomes Had Highest Increases in Dental Visits



Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, Ages 0-6, by FPL, 2011-2015

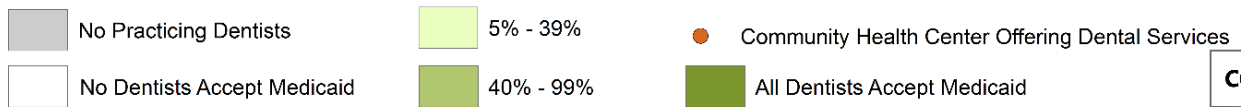
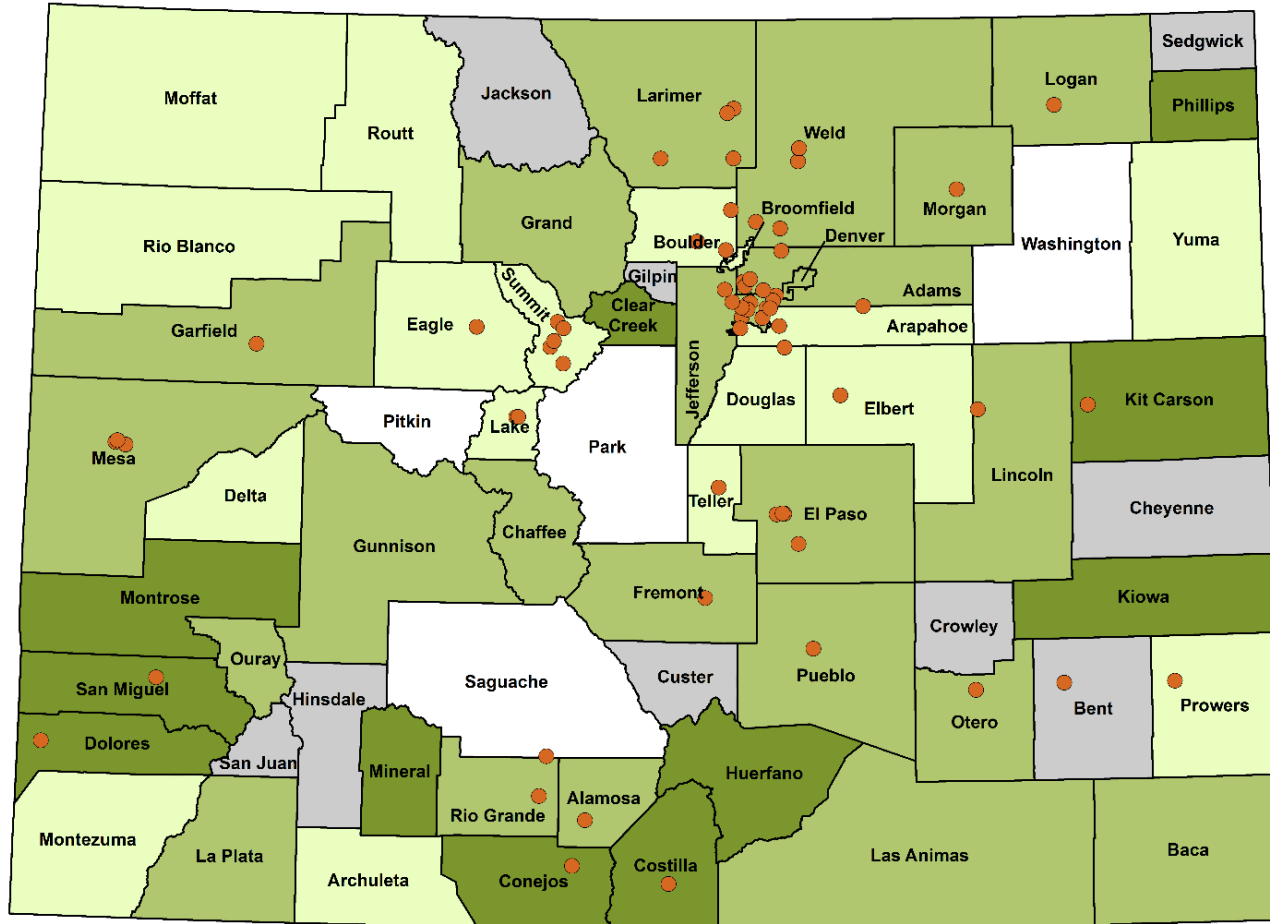
# The Data: Lowest-Income Children Ages 7-17 Had Steady Increase in Dental Visits



Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, Ages 7-17, by FPL, 2011-2015



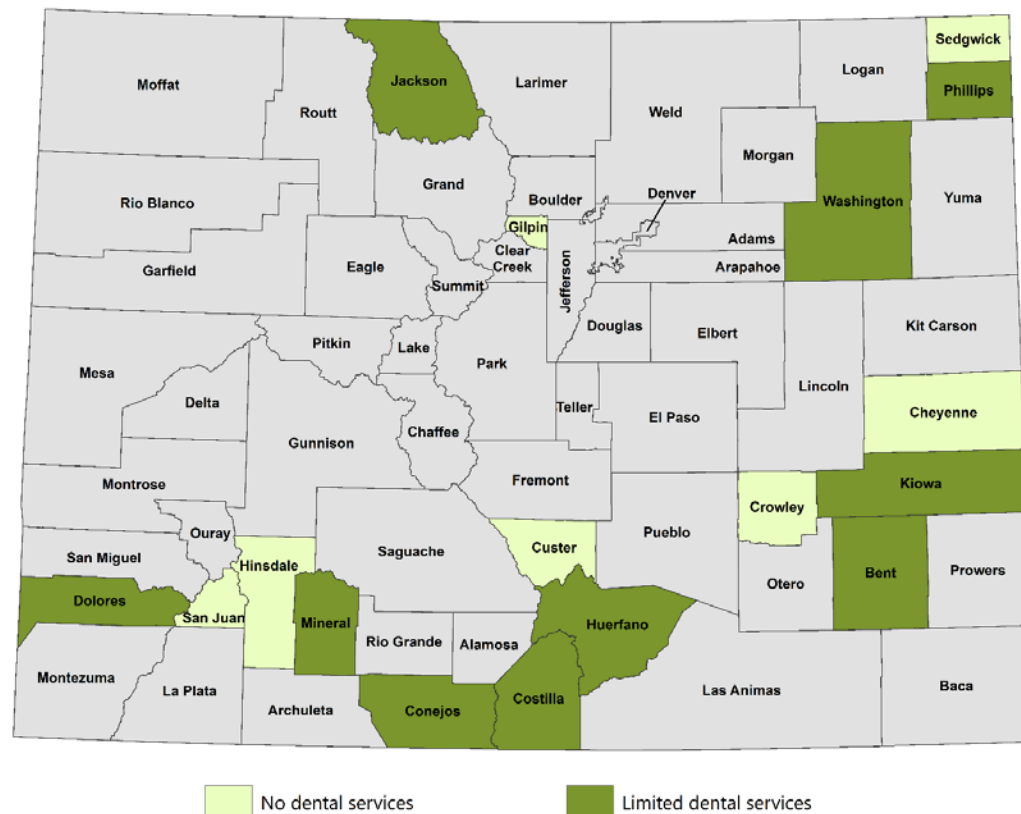
# Percentage of Dentists Accepting Medicaid, 2015-2016



**CO Avg: 48%**

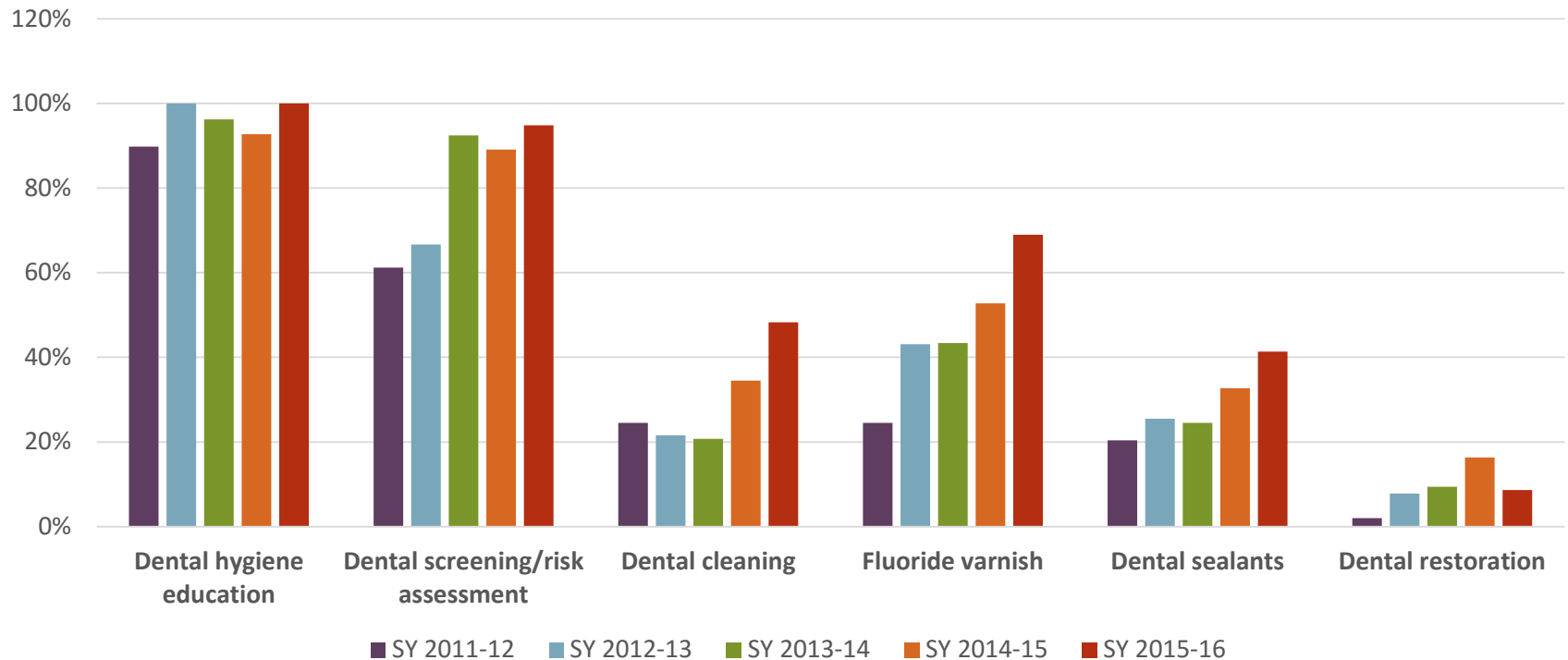


# The Data: Seven Counties Lack Dental Services



No dental services includes counties with no practicing dentist or dental clinic. Limited dental services includes counties with 2 or fewer practicing dentists or dental clinics.

# The Data: School-Based Health Centers Expanding Oral Health Services



Percentage of School-Based Health Centers Offering On-Site Dental Services. Note some services are offered by formal referral. CHI and CASBHC Survey of School-Based Health Centers.

# The Data:

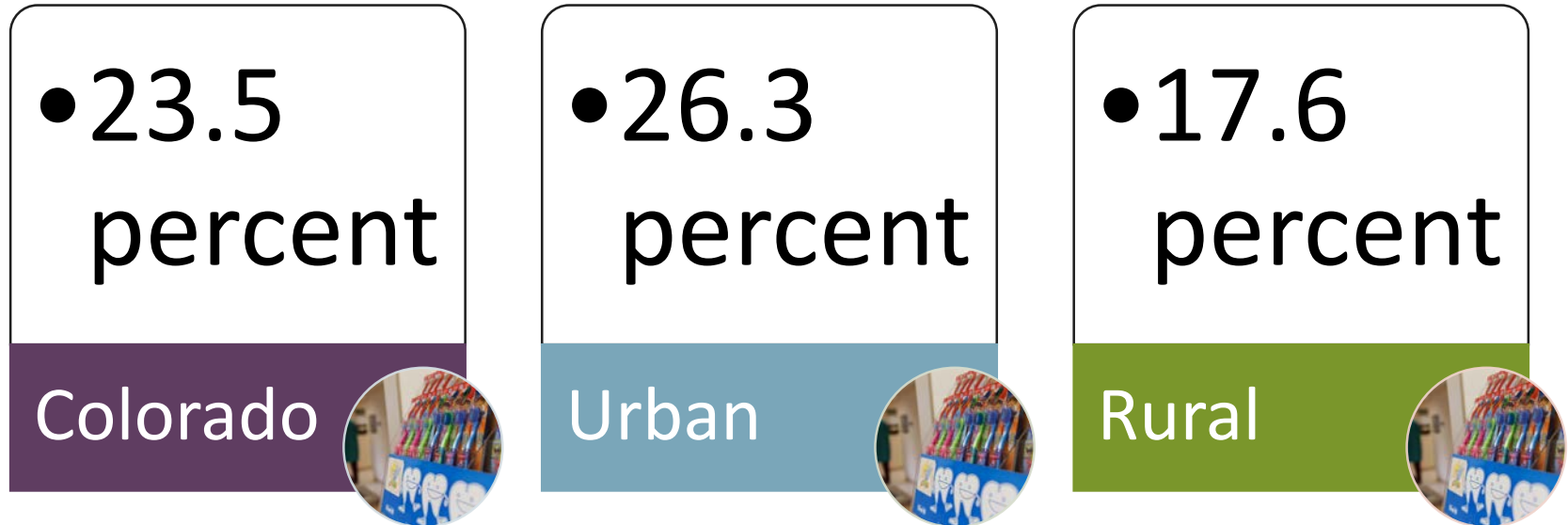
## Rate of Third Graders with Sealants Rose **10 Percentage Points**

- 2004: 35 percent
- 2011: 45 percent
- *2017: available soon*



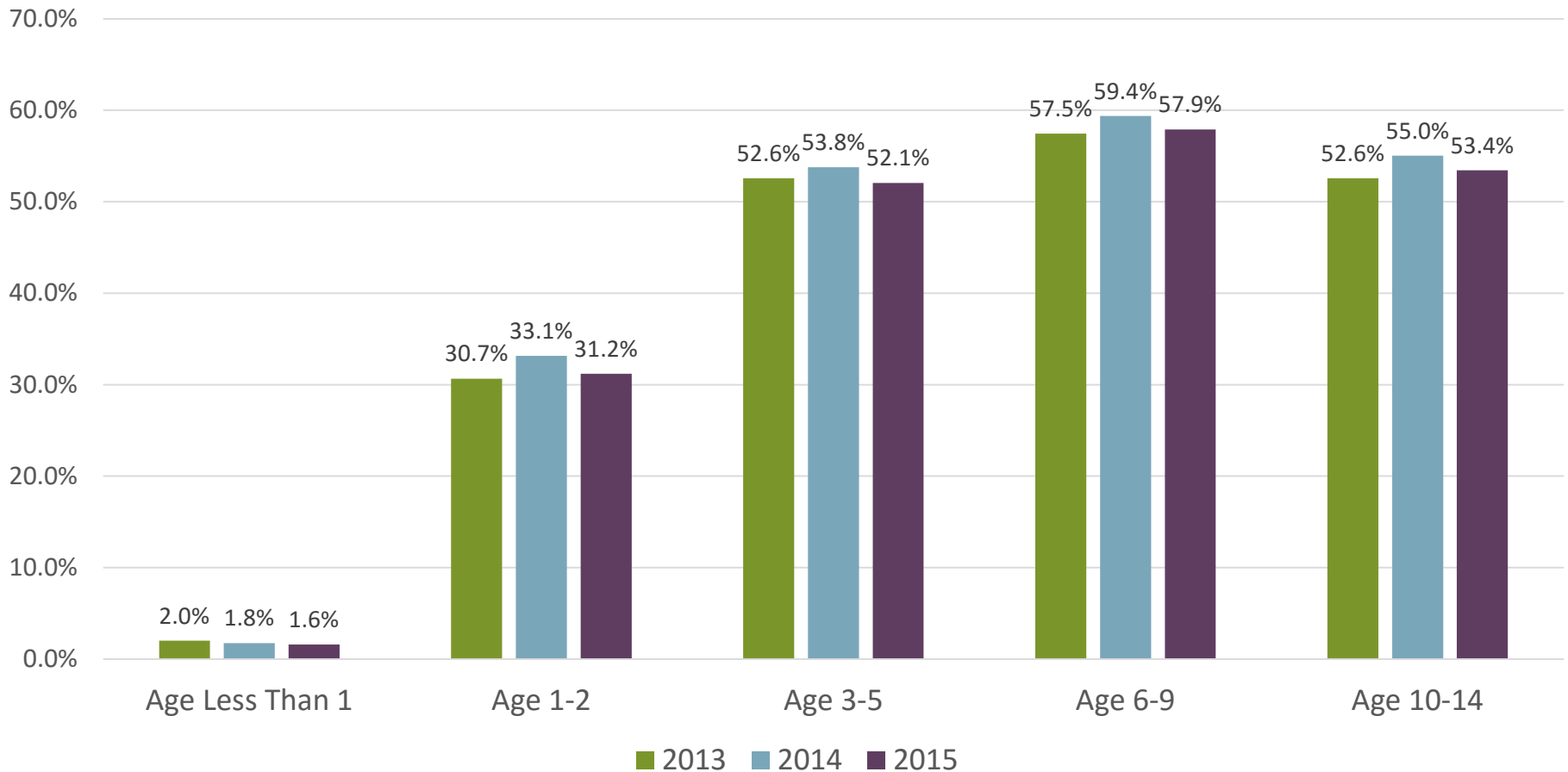
Results from 2004, and 2011-2012 Basic Screening Surveys.

# The Data: One of Four Eligible Schools Have a Sealant Program



Data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, as reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2016. Eligible schools have 50 percent or more of their students in Free and Reduced Lunch programs.

# The Data: One of Three Medicaid Enrollees Under Age 2 Receive Preventive Dental Services



Individuals Eligible for EPSDT Who Received Preventive Dental Service, By Age, Colorado, 2013-2015



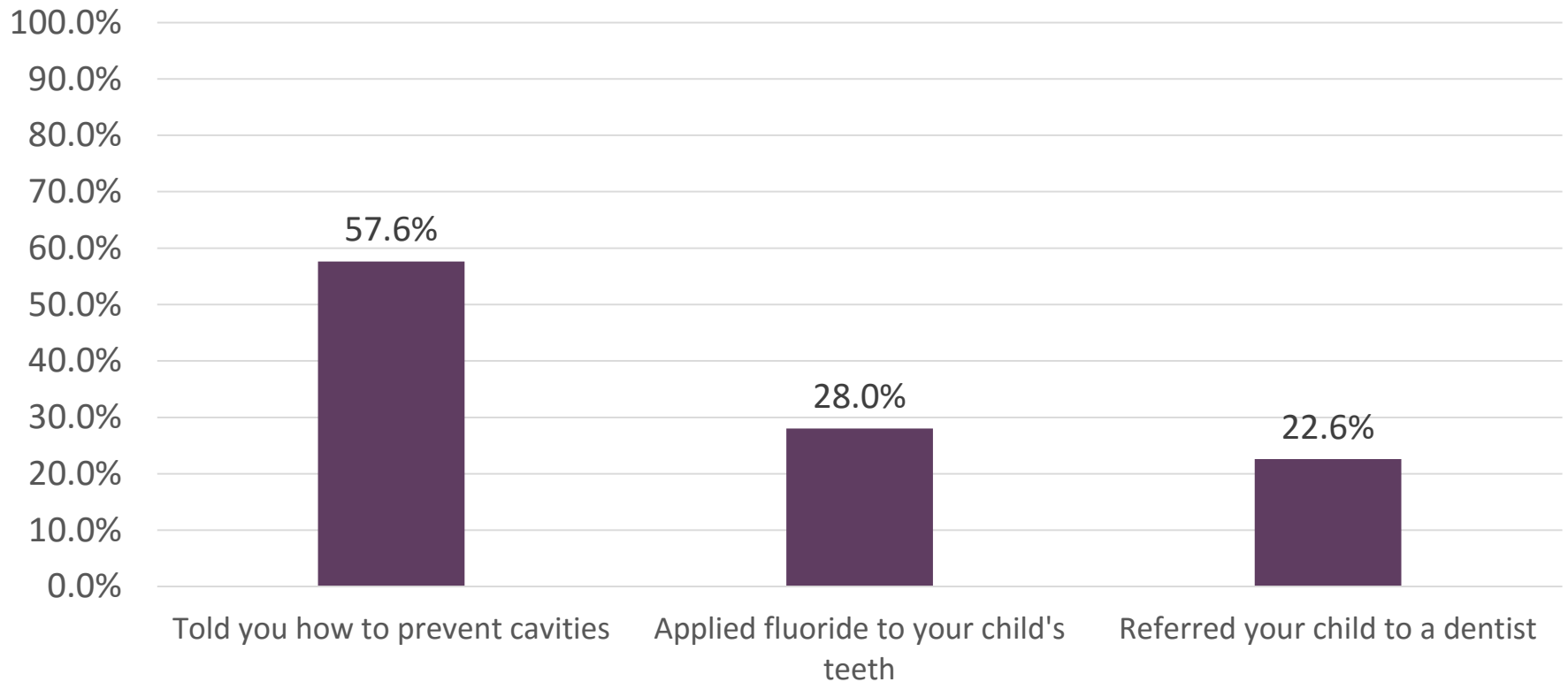


- **99.6 percent** of Colorado children ages 0-1 visited a medical provider in 2015.
- **10.1 percent** visited a dental provider.



Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015

# The Data: Just Over Half of Health Care Providers Addressing Prevention



Has a Health Care Provider Ever..., Children Ages 1-14, Child Health Survey, Colorado, 2013 -2015





# Oral Health Across the Lifespan

# Children



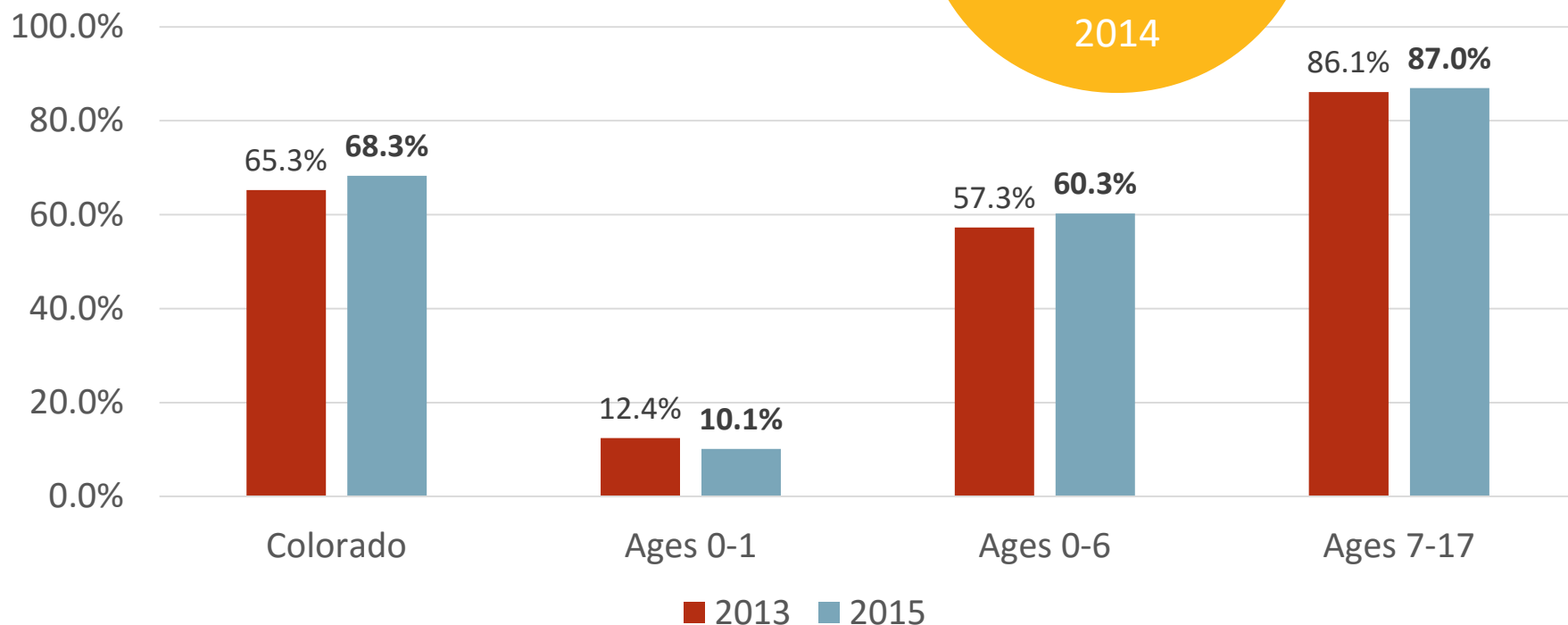
# Children in Colorado: Progress

- More Colorado children are seeing dental providers.
  - 60 percent of children ages 0-6 saw a provider in 2015, up from 57 percent in 2013.
- Use of preventive services is growing.
  - 45 percent of third graders have sealants.



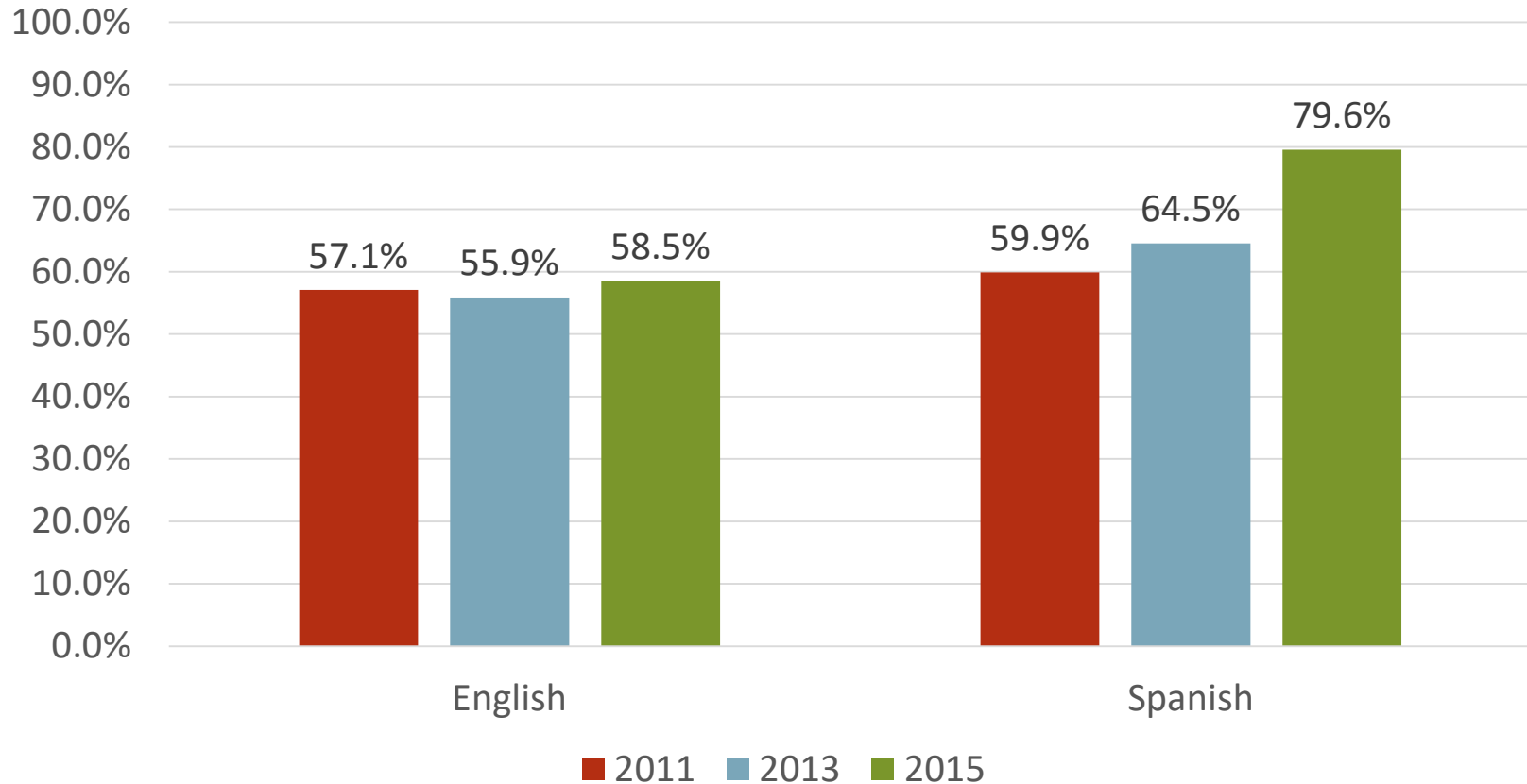
# The Data: Most Children Over Age 1 Getting Dental Care

83 percent of U.S. children ages 2-17 visited a dentist in 2014



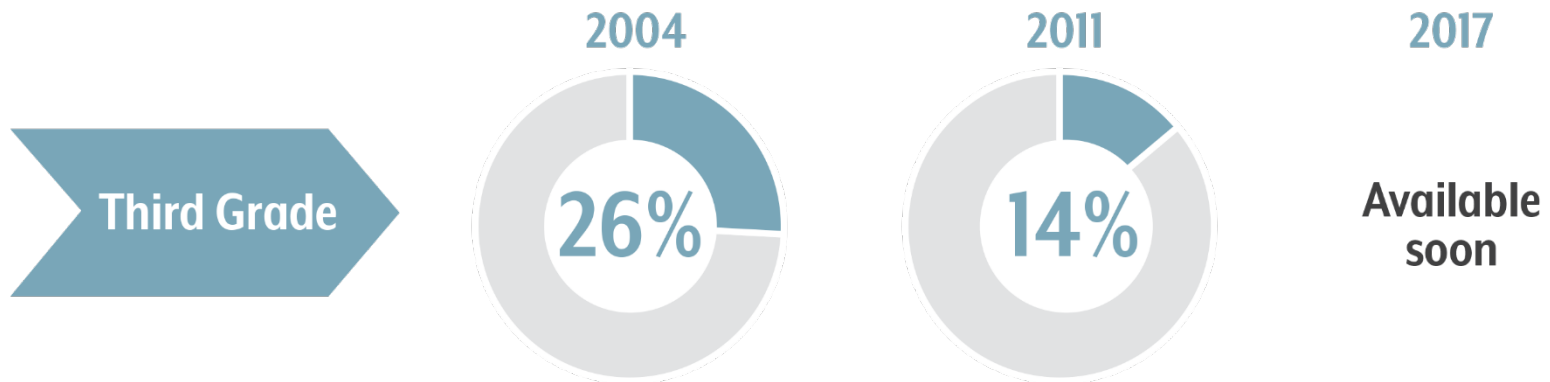
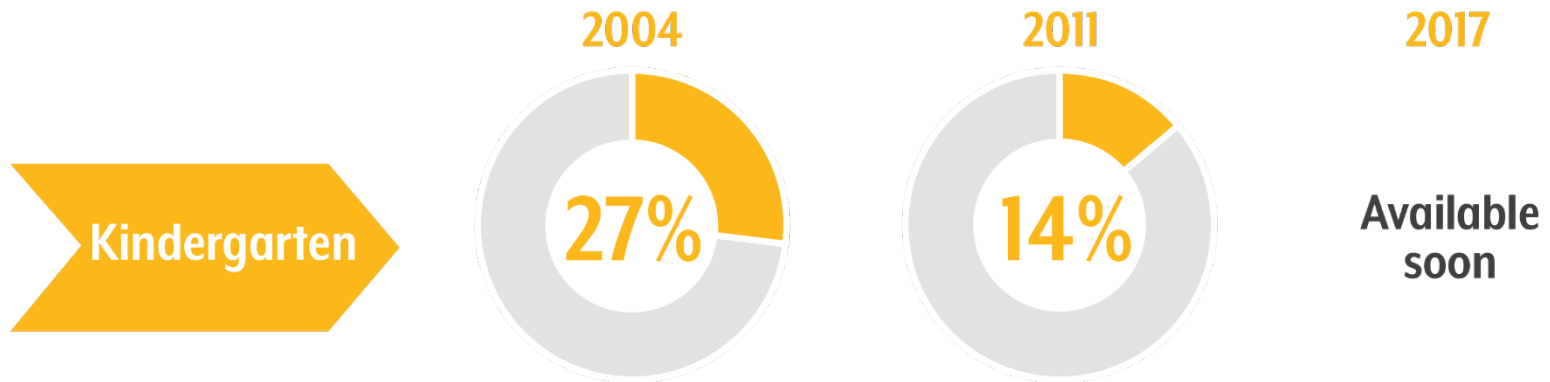
Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, by Age, Colorado Health Access Survey, 2013-2015

# The Data: More Spanish-Speaking Children Ages 0-6 Getting Dental Care



Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, Ages 0-6, by Language Spoken at Home, 2011-2015

# The Data: Rate of Untreated Dental Decay Halved Between 2004 and 2011



Results from 2004 and 2011-2012 Basic Screening Surveys.



# Children in Colorado: Opportunities

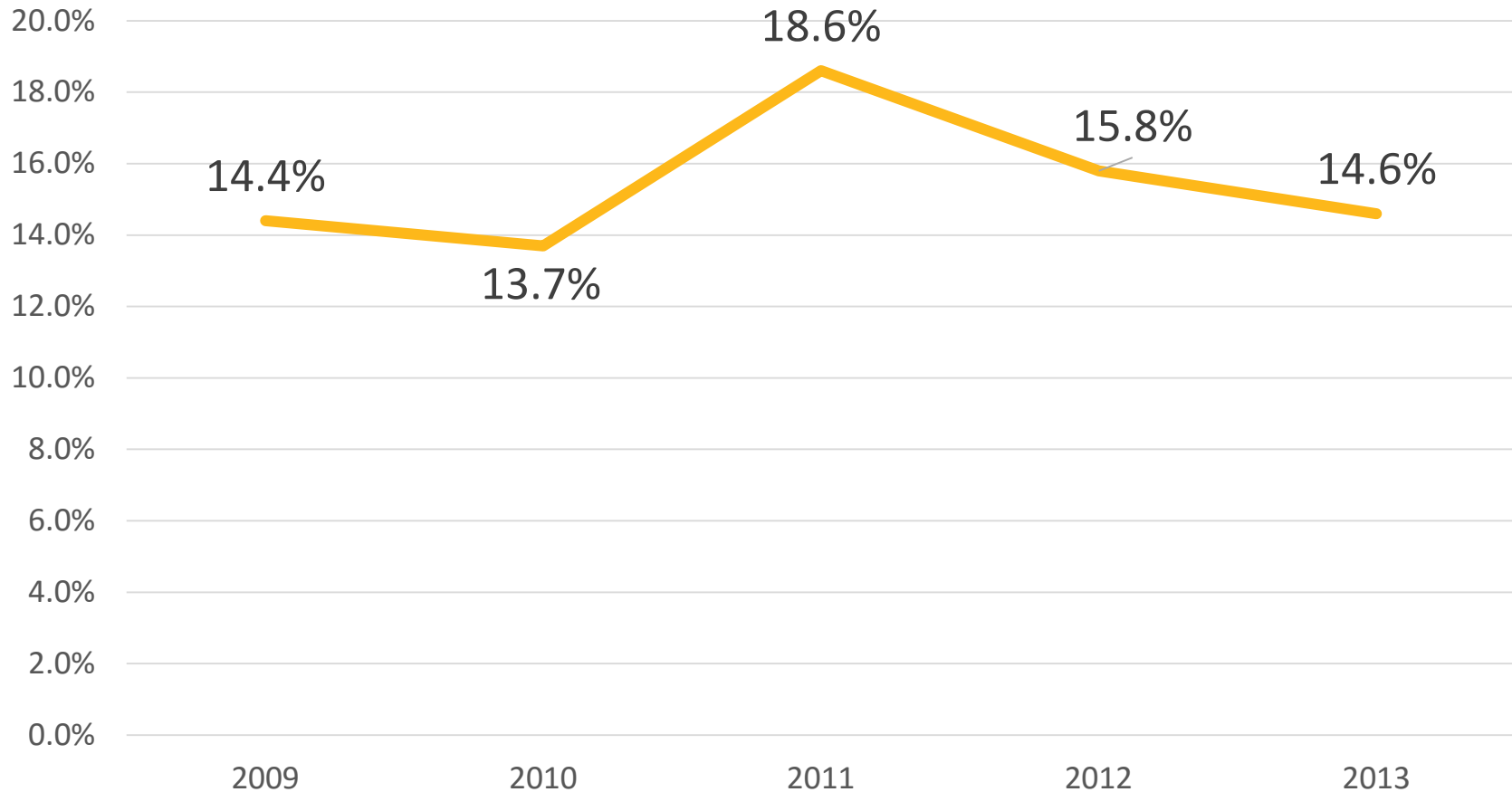
- Cavities are still an issue.
  - No change in rate of cavities among kindergarteners or third graders; data to be released later this year will provide new insights.
  - One of 10 parents report cavities as the main problem for their children's teeth – a rate that has changed little in the past five years.
- Low-income children most likely to have poor oral health.
  - 85 percent of children with poor oral health have incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Colorado infants are getting medical – not dental – care.
  - Nearly all infants had a medical visit; 10 percent had a dental visit.

Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015

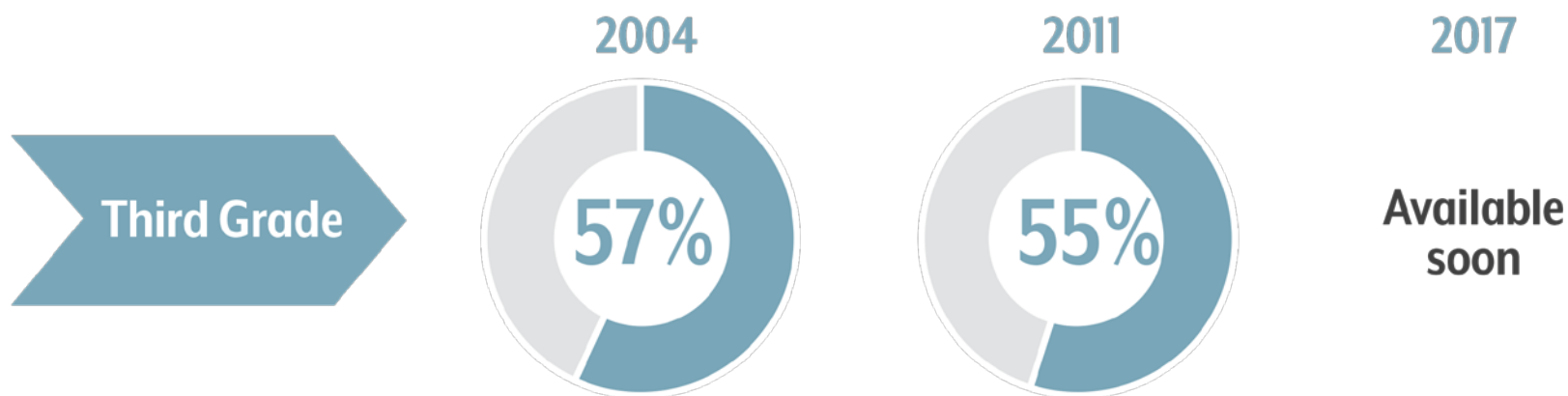
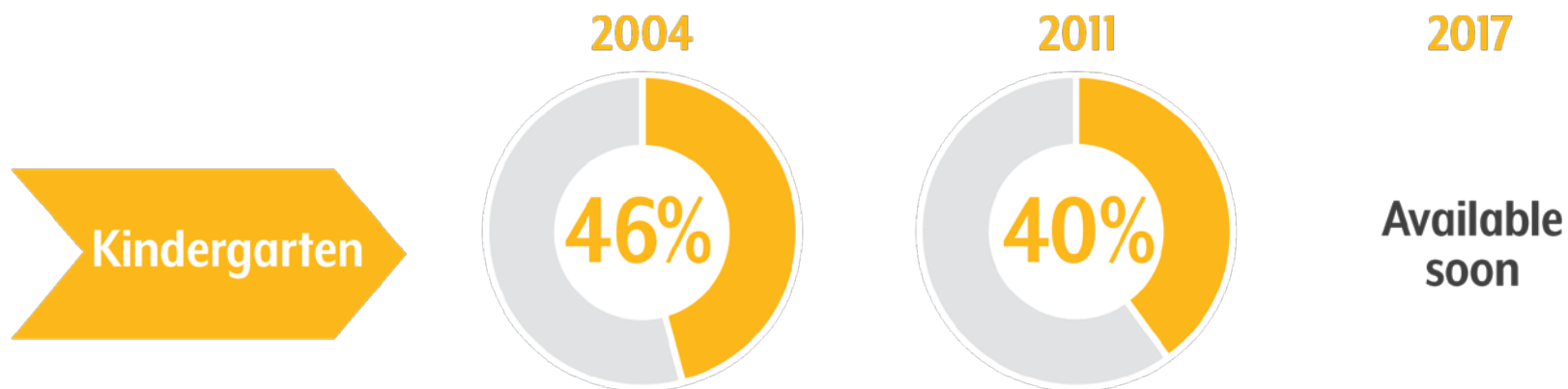


# The Data: Cavities are the Main Problem for More Than One of 10 Children

Percent of parents who said cavities were the main problem for child's teeth



# The Data: Caries Experience Not Changed



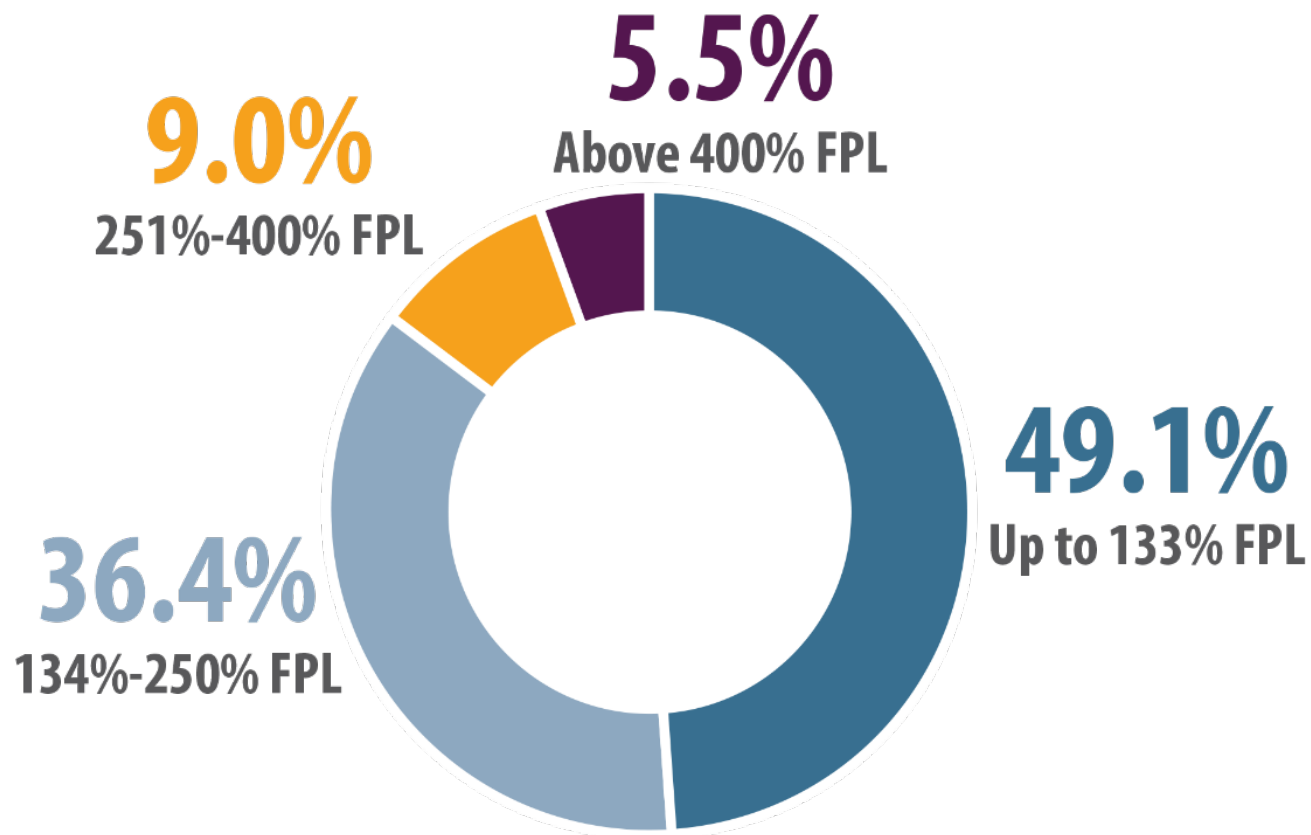
Results from 2004 and 2011-2012 Basic Screening Surveys.

**More than half**  
of LOW-INCOME Colorado  
Kindergarteners and  
**nearly one of four** from  
HIGHER-INCOME households  
have experienced cavities.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Results of the Basic Screening Survey



# The Data: Children with Poor Oral Health More Likely to be Low Income



Colorado Health Access Survey, Self-Reported Oral Health Status, Ages 0-18, by Income, 2015

# Adults

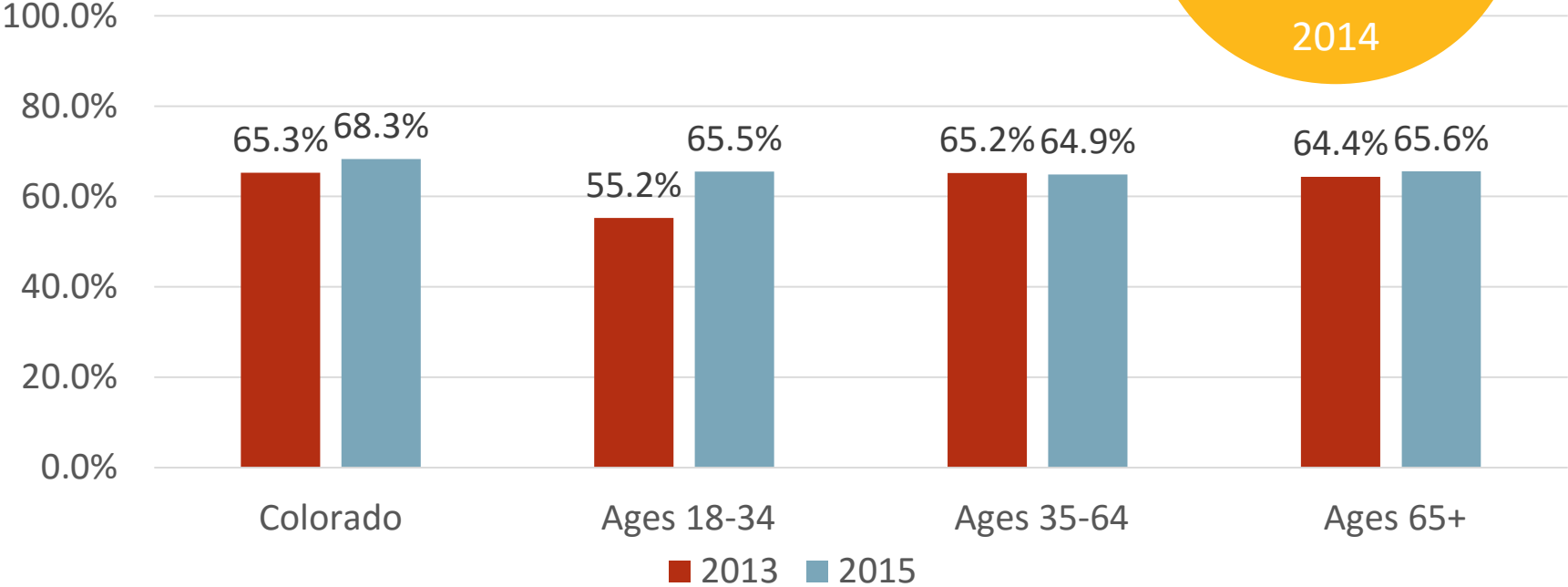


# Adults in Colorado

- Progress:
  - More younger adults ages 18-34 getting dental care.
    - Visits to a dental professional rose 10 percentage points to 65.5 percent between 2013 to 2015.
- Opportunities:
  - Little change in use of dental services among Coloradans over age 35.
    - Two of three Coloradans over age 35 visit a dental professional.
  - More than half of seniors lack dental insurance.

# The Data: Increase in Younger Adults Getting Dental Care

62 percent of US adults 18 and older visited a dentist in 2014



Visited a Dentist or Dental Hygienist in the Past 12 Months, by Age, Colorado, 2011-2015



# The Data: Adults with Disabilities More Likely to Receive Medical Care

2013

- Medical Visits:  
87.6 percent
- Dental Visits:  
**48.5 percent**

2015

- Medical Visits:  
88.9 percent
- Dental Visits:  
**55.2 percent**

Colorado Health Access Survey, Medical and Dental Utilization by Disability, 2011-2015



**One of three adults (36 percent)** have had at least one tooth pulled due to tooth decay or gum disease.

**7.4 percent** lost six or more.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014



# The Data: One of Two Seniors Lack Dental Insurance

- **Over half (54 percent)** do not have dental insurance.
- **One of 10 seniors (65 and older)** have had all teeth pulled due to tooth decay or gum disease.
- 18 percent report fair or poor oral health.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014; Colorado Health Access Survey, 2015.



# The Data: Good Oral Health More Likely Among Those with Good Physical Health

89.7  
percent

- Of Coloradans in good physical health report good oral health.

52.8  
percent

- Of Coloradans in poor physical health report good oral health.

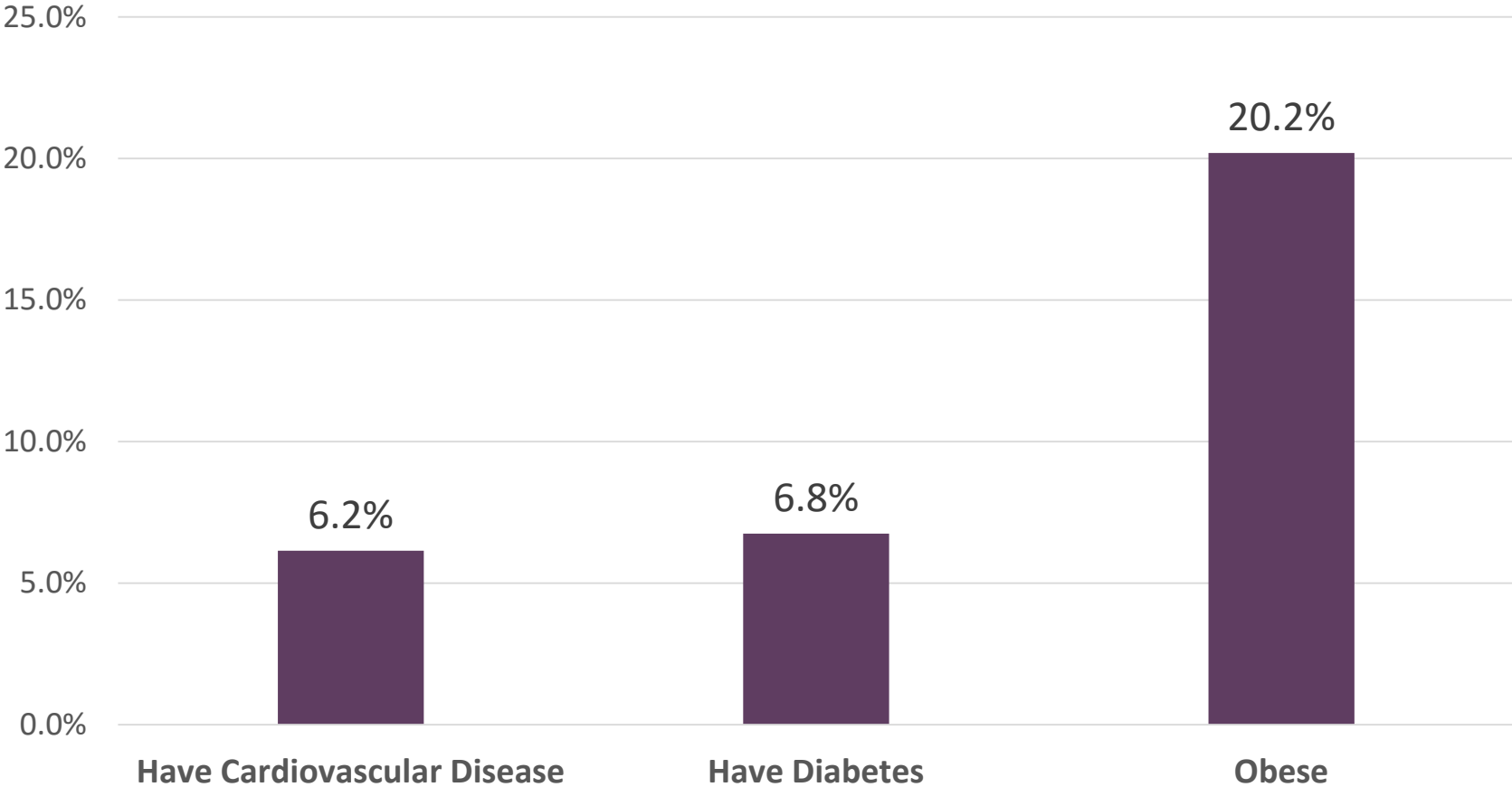


# One of Five Colorado High Schoolers is Overweight or Obese.

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 2015



# The Data: Six Percent of Adults Have Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes



Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Adults Ages 18 and Older, Colorado, 2015

**30 percent**  
of adults drink  
one or more  
sugar-sweetened  
beverages daily.



Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance  
System, Adults Ages 18 and over,  
Colorado, 2015



# Findings

- Rates of insurance coverage – medical and dental – are at an all-time high.
- More Colorado children are seeing dental providers – including low-income children and children who speak Spanish.
- Prevention efforts are growing, but impacts on tooth decay are uncertain.
- Oral health workforce is expanding to serve under-resourced Coloradans.
- Policy changes have brought progress in promoting oral health in Colorado, but the current political climate threatens gains.





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